

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0533
Date: 14 March 2022



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

I would like to establish any information held on the murder of a 15 year old boy (Andrew Coyle) in the Glenmavis area in 1945 on the outskirts of Airdrie, if it is 'unsolved' and contained in the unsolved murder database.

I can first advise that Police Scotland does not use the term 'unsolved' or "solved" but rather, records under the terms Resolved, Unresolved and Undetected.

The following explanation may clarify the terminology in this respect:

- Unresolved Homicides:

Unresolved homicides are considered those where:

- (a) No suspect has been identified
- (b) A suspect has been identified but not charged (no proceedings)
- (c) A suspect has been identified and charged but not placed on petition (no proceedings)
- (d) A suspect has appeared on petition but no indictment served due to there being considered an insufficiency of evidence at that time (no proceedings)
- (e) A suspect has been indicted and a trial concluded which has resulted in an acquittal (Not Guilty/Not Proven)
- (f) A suspect has been convicted but acquitted on appeal and no fresh prosecution has been authorised by the Appeal Court (Not Guilty)
- (g) A suspect has committed suicide prior to trial and no other person is being sought in connection with the case.

- Undetected Homicides:

Undetected Homicides are those cases where no person has been formally identified as an accused or charged with the offence.

I can confirm that checks have confirmed that this particular case does not feature on the Scottish Homicide Database nor do we hold any other information in our files which may assist in this request.

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In explanation, the agreed transfer dates for homicides required to be populated onto the national homicide database from the various legacy systems was from 01/01/1960 onwards.

There are some exceptions but I can confirm that in this instance I must respond in terms of Section 17(1) of the Act: Information not held.

I can only suggest you may be able to source historical information from the local library or from the North Lanarkshire archives who may be able to offer further advice and/or hold microfiche articles detailing the case.

If you require further assistance or are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.