| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-0984  Responded to: 19 April 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Please provide the number of people who have requested to be on "accept list for the recipient"   
Emails to  
Any senior Police Scotland Official  
Chief Constable (Current)  
Chief Constable (previous)  
Deputy Chief Constables,  
Deputy Chief Officer,  
Assistant Chief Constables and Directors**

We asked you to clarify this part of your request and you replied:

## Information where Quote - Ask the recipient's email admin to add you to the accept list for the recipient - End quote Relates to anyone who has made the request

Again, we requested further clarification and you replied:

## Where these responses have not been received and information related to PS A person might receive a response that they are not on list to person to accept emails If the intended recipient was requested by anyone it would be Recorded information

I’m afraid your request remains somewhat unclear, but I will explain how we have interpreted it and attempt to provide a response on that basis.

Functionality exists within the Microsoft Outlook email system to set up an email account in a way that it only accepts incoming emails from specified individuals.

I believe that in such cases, anyone attempting to email the account who is not on the list of designated individuals will receive an auto-generated reply saying that their email has not been sent and that they should contact the administrator of the intended recipient to request that they are added to the list.

That being the situation you are referring to, I believe you are asking how many people have contacted Police Scotland asking to be added to the designated list for the email account of any of the individuals listed.

On that basis, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request.

I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

To explain, we have no way of searching all incoming correspondence/ phone calls etc to Police Scotland for any reference to being added to such a list.

I would stress that any police officer or staff member can be contacted via [contactus@scotland.police.uk](mailto:contactus@scotland.police.uk) - and that email address exists to ensure that contact is directed appropriately.

**Please provide Appointment letters of current Deputy Chief Constables, Deputy Chief Officer, Assistant Chief Constables and Directors**

The appointment of Executive level police officers is conducted by the Scottish Police Authority and in terms of section 17 of the Act, the information sought is not held by Police Scotland.

In relation to the police staff members, the information sought is held by Police Scotland, but I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the exemption set out at section 38(1)(b) of the Act applies - personal information.

Personal data is defined in Article 4 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as:

*‘Information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person (“data subject”); an identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person’*

Section 38(2A) of the Act provides that personal data is exempt from disclosure where disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles set out at Article 5(1) of the GDPR which states that:

*‘Personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject’*

Article 6 of the GDPR goes on to state that processing shall be lawful only if certain conditions are met. The only potentially applicable condition is Article 6(1)(f) which states:

*‘Processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by the controller or by a third party, except where such interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject which require protection of personal data, in particular where the data subject is a child’*

Whilst I accept that you may have a legitimate interest with regards the disclosure of this information, I do not agree that disclosure could be considered necessary in the circumstances.

Notwithstanding, I am further of the view that your interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subjects.

On that basis, it is my view that disclosure of the information sought would be unlawful.

If you require any further assistance, please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.