| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-2437Responded to: 07 August 2025 |
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I refer to your recent request for information which has not been repeated here due to the fact that it names specific individuals.

In terms of section 18 of the Act, I am refusing to confirm or deny whether the information sought exists or is held by Police Scotland.

Section 18 applies where the following two conditions are met:

* It would be contrary to the public interest to reveal whether the information is held.

Whilst we accept that there is a public interest in better informing the public as to the progress of police investigations and their relative success. Particularly true in investigations, therefore accountability and transparency relating to the actions of Police Scotland and its officers would favour disclosure of the information, if held.

The overwhelming public interest lies in protecting the integrity of the investigation process and I can find no public interest in the disclosure of the requested information.

* If the information was held, it would be exempt from disclosure in terms of one or more of the exemptions set out in sections 28 to 35, 38, 39(1) or 41 of the Act.

In this instance, the following exemption would apply:

**Section 34(1)(b) – Investigations**

Information is exempt if it has at any time been held by Police Scotland for the purposes of an investigation which may lead to a report to the Procurator Fiscal to enable it to be determined whether criminal proceedings should be instituted.

This explanation should not be taken as indicative or conclusive evidence that the information you have requested does or does not exist.

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 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](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by email 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.