| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-2540  Responded to: 15 August 2025 |
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Your request submitted via the online SAR process has been passed to us to treat as FOI as there is no route under Data Protection legislation to access records relating to a deceased individual.

Any FOI response is a public disclosureand so it is not usually possible to disclose information about particular individuals or related police involvement and/ or investigations.

In terms of section 18 of the Act, I am refusing to confirm or deny whether the information sought is held by Police Scotland. The public interest overwhelmingly lies in protecting individuals’ right to privacy and honouring their expectation of confidentiality - even in death.

Furthermore, any information held for the purpose of a police investigation is exempt from disclosure in terms of section 34(1) of the Act and section 35(1)(a)&(b) would also apply insofar as disclosure of any such information would be prejudicial to the law enforcement role of Police Scotland more generally.

I appreciate that you have a vested interest in disclosure but what is of interest to the public is not the same as the public interest.  
The Act does not define the public interest, however, it has been described as “something which is of serious concern and benefit to the public", not merely something of individual interest. In other words, it serves the interests of the public.  
Any disclosure under FOI legislation is a disclosure to the world at large. As such any personal information provided would become known publicly. The public interest overwhelmingly lies in protecting individuals' right to privacy and honouring their expectation of confidentiality - even in death.

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.