| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1208  Responded to: xx May 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**On 16th August 2020, an upper story house at 32 Burnside Road, Uphall, was destroyed by fire, resulting in one fatality.  
Police, Fire Service and West Lothian Council were in attendance.  
The windows at the front were boarded up that night, but the windows at the back were not. I do not know who took this action. The gas supply to the flat was left active. I am trying to ascertain who was responsible for making the property secure after the incident.**

**Could you tell me whether the police took action that night to:**

**- board up the front windows  
- terminate gas, electric supply and water supply to the burned out flat?**

**If not the police, then do the officers who attended know who might have taken action?**

I can advise you first of all that Police Scotland do hold an incident report in relation to this fire and a sudden death report relating to the fatality.

As far as information from within those reports that may relate to the specific questions posed, I am refusing to confirm or deny whether the information sought exists or is held by Police Scotland in terms of section 18.

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 you may have a particular personal interest in accessing this information, you must bear in mind that FOI disclosures are effectively public disclosures. The overwhelming public interest lies in protecting the integrity of police investigative processes.

* If the information was held, it would be exempt from disclosure in terms of at least one exemption set out in the Act. In this instance, the following exemptions apply:

Section 34(2)(b) - Investigations

Information is exempt if it is held for the purposes of an investigation carried out for the purpose of making a report to COPFS as respects the cause of death of a person.

If your interest is in relation to insurance or liability purposes, you may wish to reach out to our Legal Services team who can be contacted via [contactus@scotland.police.uk](mailto:contactus@scotland.police.uk)

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](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) 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.