| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1690  Responded to: 05 June 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Question

## Please answer the following questions as per legislation on freedom of information request.

## 1. Since when and under which legislation do social workers have the power/authority to organise medical examinations of children who are victims and subject of a police criminal investigation of emotional, psychological and physical abuse?

## 2. Ask an accused for permission to have their child, who is victims and subject of a police criminal investigation of emotional, psychological and physical abuse for permission for that child to be medically examined?

## 3. Since when and under which legislation do social workers have the power/authority to prevent a guardian/carer appointed by them for a vulnerable child to be refused access to a medical examination to provide support for that child?

## 4. Since when and under which legislation do social workers have the power/authority to be actively involved in a police criminal investigation into child abuse other than as a witness to the facts?

## 5. What legislation allows social workers to refuse to interview and take information from independent civilian witnesses in cases of allegations of child abuse, emotional and physical attacks?

## 6. What legislation prevents social workers giving Police Scotland details of witnesses to cases of child abuse, both emotional and physical?

Response

The information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies. We do not hold information relating specifically to the scenarios outlined in your request and you may wish to contact the relevant local authority for more information.  To be of assistance, you may be interested in the following:

[Child Protection - Inter-Agency Referral Discussions SOP](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/l23d3qtb/child-protection-inter-agency-referral-discussions-sop.pdf)

[Child Protection SOP](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/boxmpeao/child-protection-sop.pdf)​

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.