

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0263  
Date: 22 February 2022



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

**I have become aware that their allegedly are bogus “police officers” and I am not talking about English police that cross the border without permission from the first minister, I am talking about civilians purporting to be male police officers approaching the doors of vulnerable women requesting either entry to their homes or to sign documentation for their money within the Galashiels, Selkirk and Melrose area of the Scottish Borders. Given what has happened to Sarah Everard hopefully Police can now see why it’s intelligent and not necessarily an obstructive, intransigent or threatening or abusive thing for women like me to demand to see a Scottish Police Officers name, rank and number and to hold them at the door until verification of the details are given by Police HQ. I would recommend that be done by all other women regardless of them being victims, witnesses or suspects for a very good reason.**

**I have used my own mind and looked into this myself the allegation seems to have arisen from a BBC Radio transmission in the Scottish Borders warning people that false police officers were allegedly approaching homes asking for subjects to sign over their property and money. Despite what was relayed to me there does not appear to be any indication if these fake “officers” were actually just males or that they were after anything other than money. However for my own peace of mind I would request the following under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002:**

**Between 26/1/2019 - 26/1/2022**

**Please not women is to mean transgender women as well.**

**A) A full count of all reported incidences of alleged fake male or trans male police officers arriving at the doors of women within the Galashiels, Selkirk, and Melrose areas with the alleged intent to gain entry by “consent” or force.**

In response to this question I can advise you that in respect of the exact scenario set out in your request the answer to the question posed is zero.

To be of assistance, I can however advise you that in the Scottish Borders Command Area there were a total of 4 recorded offences of *Personation of Police* in the time period requested two in 2020 and two in 2021.

Three of these offences are *detected* and the accused is recorded as male.

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The remaining case is currently *undetected* and the suspect is recorded as male.

You may be interested in the following information on the Police Scotland website:

[www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/news/2022/january/public-warned-of-police-impersonation-scam/](http://www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/news/2022/january/public-warned-of-police-impersonation-scam/)

[www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/news/2021/october/lone-police-officers-to-offer-verification-check-to-members-of-the-public/](http://www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/news/2021/october/lone-police-officers-to-offer-verification-check-to-members-of-the-public/)

**B) If any incidences are found at all then I would request a count of them is given along with the verdict of each by the criminal courts of Scotland allocated to each defendant as being either innocent, not-proven, or guilty.**

**C) In the cases of those with a verdict of guilty allocated to them preferably by jury I would request a full disclosure of the complaints with the names and details of the victims redacted and the names and details of the convicted unreacted. Please also provide any fake details given by any males purporting to be a police officer of Police Scotland that are known outright to be false by Police Scotland or who's fake names are not known or remembered by the Crown in Scotland.**

In response to these questions, Police Scotland does not hold prosecution/conviction information. As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

You may wish to contact the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscals Service (COPFS) which holds conviction information for Scotland. A request can be submitted to COPFS via email using the following address [foi@copfs.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:foi@copfs.gsi.gov.uk)

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee on [foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk) quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to [foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk) or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.

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