| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1835  Responded to: 21 August 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

## I would like to submit a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 regarding your force’s use of geographic crime analysis or ‘hotspot’ crime mapping, risk assessment and profiling of individuals, and databases.

## Specifically I would like the following information:

## 1. Does your force conduct ‘hot-spot’ mapping or mapping of crime in geographic areas or other form of geographic crime analysis (such as Risk Terrain Modelling, MapInfo, ArcGIS or similar)?

Yes

## If yes, please provide:

## a. The names of the systems or software that has been developed or procured for this purpose;

I can advise that Police Scotland does not hold information in the format requested. In terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that information is not held.

As you will be aware an individual’s right in terms of the legislation is to obtain information held by a public authority at the time a request is received and there is no obligation on them to create new information specifically for this request.

By way of explanation, the analyst community within Police Scotland is a very broad group of specialist officers and members of staff.   There will be a range of systems most of this community would use in relation to mapping (e.g. recorded crime, incidents, stop/search, etc), however, these systems were not developed or procured specifically for mapping of crime and as such we would need to list every “common” source utilised across Scotland. No such list of systems is currently held and to compile such a comprehensive list of all data sources would be an onerous task.

## b. What types of data are used in the system(s);

## c. What the purpose of the system(s) are;

## d. What the outcomes or predictions of the system(s) are used for, operationally (e.g allocation of resources, targeted interventions, operations);

In response to your request, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the above requested information.

By way of explanation, as stated in the response to question 1a above and in our previous response (23-0091) Police Scotland use a large number of systems and each problem profile created along with any other work which could be classed under your definition would need to be physically examined, the relevant information noted, compiled and a response formulated . Whilst I note no timescale has been provided, if we were to look at just a single year, many hundreds of reports would require to be reviewed. It is estimated that hundreds of hours of work would be required to confirm the information requested.

Police Scotland have assessed that the £600 cost limit within the Act equates to 40 hours of work and so this part of your request would breach the cost threshold.

If you wish to refine your request to seek recorded information your request will be considered and an appropriate response provided.

## e. Copies of the Data Protection Impact Assessments and/or Equality Impact Assessments that have been carried out in relation to the use of the system(s).

I can advise you that Police Service of Scotland does not hold any of the information requested by you. In terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that information is not held.

By way of explanation, a search of our recording systems did not find any relevant information.

2. Does your force hold specific lists or databases of people allegedly involved in specific forms of crime or criminal behaviour, such as ‘gang’ crime, ‘county lines’, knife crime, violent crime, child criminal exploitation, or conduct any profiling or risk assessment in relation to those lists or databases?

## If yes, please provide:

## a. The names of the database(s) or list(s);

## b. If known and easily retrievable, the date each database or list was first created;

## c. The criteria for inclusion on the database(s) or list(s);

## d. If available in an easily retrievable format, the type of data that is used to assess the criteria for inclusion on the database(s) or list(s);

The questions detailed above seek for the same information as your previous information request (23-0091), as such the same response has been provided:

Law enforcement in Scotland uses the Management of Risk in Law Enforcement (MoRiLE) methodology to assess risk in relation to Serious Organised Crime Groups (SOCGs). The use of MoRiLE was implemented in 2021/22 Q1. This ensures that resources are used to target the issues causing the greatest risk.

Serious Organised Crime is crime which:

* involves more than one person;
* is organised, meaning that it involves control, planning and use of specialist resources;
* causes, or has the potential to cause, significant harm; and
* Involves benefit to the individuals concerned, particularly financial gain.

Please note that as you have asked for databases specific to the categories detailed above, more general databases which cover a wider set of offences have been excluded. For example the Scottish Intelligence Database (SID) which allows Police Scotland officers to grade, manage and action intelligence for a variety of policing purposes. It cannot be said to be specific to gang crime, county lines, knife crime, or violent crime.

## e. Copies of the Data Protection Impact Assessments and/or Equality Impact Assessments that have been carried out in relation to the risk assessment or profiling(s).

I can advise you that Police Service of Scotland does not hold any of the information requested by you. In terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that information is not held.

By way of explanation, a search of our recording systems did not find any relevant information.

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.