

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2021-2655
Date: 19 January 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. Please accept our sincere apologies for the lateness of our response.

With regard to part of the policing operation for COP26 I request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act:

1. Cost of closure and policing of Argyle Street to provide a secure route from COP26 to the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum on and around Monday 31st October 2021, including but not limited to costs of:

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

By way of explanation, due to the timing and volume of transactions still to be processed the costs of COP26 will not be known until all costs are finalised. This will be completed in line with our year end processes.

Costs will be referenced within our annual accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2022, which will be published in due course.

a. Police time (several hundred police for 12+ hours?)

In clarification from applicant

Police time – this should include ALL police time involved plus MACP (Military Assistance to the Civil Power) if used <https://www.gov.uk/make-a-freedom-of-information-request>.

In relation to police time, I can advise you that Police Scotland does not hold any recorded information. In terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that this information is not held.

By way of explanation, as there is a statutory obligation for Police Scotland to police events such as COP 26 and the nature of policing means that officers and staff are deployed to wherever their services are most required and officers hours are not recorded by events.

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By way of assistance, we can advise that 562 officers of varying ranks were deployed to the security of the route working 12 hour shifts.

There were additional specialist assets that were deployed as part of the wider COP26 Operation who provided support to event when required, the timings of these are not held.

In relation to MACP, this information maybe held by the Ministry of Defence.

Please see the link below for further information.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-defence/about/publication-scheme#how-to-make-an-official-request-for-information>

b. Time spent by other public bodies and contractors, for example on erecting barriers, providing road blocks, removing parked cars

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

By way of explanation, please contact Glasgow City Council are responsible for erecting barriers, providing road blocks and removing parked cars.

By way of assistance, I have provided the link below to Glasgow City Council website.

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/>

c. Additional surveillance operations required on this route

In terms of Section 18 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (the Act) Police Scotland can neither confirm nor deny that it holds the information requested by you. However, if the information was held by the Service, it would be considered exempt in terms of one or more of the exemptions detailed in Section 18 of the Act, which are listed below:

- **Section 35 – Law enforcement**

Section 18 of the Act also provides that there is no requirement on a public authority, when issuing a Refusal Notice in terms of Section 18, to state why the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs that in disclosure of the information; nor is there any requirement to state why the exemption applies in so far as that statement would disclose information which would itself be exempt information. **This should not, however, be taken as conclusive evidence that the information you have requested exists or does not exist.**

By way of further explanation, whilst Police Scotland can neither confirm nor deny that this information exists I would ask that you note that if held I would regard the information you seek to be exempt in terms of Section 35 of the Act.

d. Planning and other administrative costs

Insofar as any costs may be ‘bundled’ with wider COP security costs, a reasonable estimate will be acceptable providing some justification is given for the numbers.

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

By way of explanation, due to the timing and volume of transactions still to be processed the planning and administrative costs of COP26 will not be known until all costs are finalised. This will be completed in line with our year end processes.

Costs will be referenced within our annual accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2022, which will be published in due course.

Clarification from applicant

Admin costs – by this I mean costs of other organisations who would have cooperated with the police to provide the necessary security arrangements (e.g. local authority planning, government departments and agencies). I appreciate that this could be complex so if these costs can reasonably be estimated to be less than 10% of the total, an estimate will be fine.

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

By way of explanation, Police Scotland does not hold the admin costs of other organisations who contributed to Cop 26.

Should you require any further assistance concerning this matter please contact Information Management – Glasgow at foi@glasgow@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 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 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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