| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-0787  Responded to: 10 April 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Should someone with autism and a cognitive impairment be afforded the opportunity to have an appropriate adult during a police interview, where they are a suspect, when they are held in police custody?**

**I will add that the simpler your answer, the less likely it is that I would need to ask for further clarification. Ideally, if it is possible, a simple yes or no answer would be my direct request.**

The information sought is held by Police Scotland, but I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the section 25(1) exemption applies:

“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it […] is exempt information”.

The information sought is publicly available:

[Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) - Appropriate Adult](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/zvvpbczl/appropriate-adults-sop.pdf)

You may also wish to review the primary legislation in respect of the duties relating to Appropriate Adult support which is contained in [section 42 of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2016/1/section/42).

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.