| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-2961Responded to: 8th December 2023 |
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I refer to your recent correspondence seeking access to personal data.

Having considered your request in terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to confirm or deny whether the information sought exists or is held by Police Scotland in terms of section 18 of the Act.

Section 18 applies where the following two conditions are met:

 - It would be contrary to the public interest to reveal whether the information is held

Whilst we accept that you may have a particular personal interest in being informed as to whether or not the information sought is held, the overwhelming public interest lies in protecting individuals’ right to privacy and the expectation of confidence that the public have in Police Scotland as regards their information.

 - If the information was held, it would be exempt from disclosure in terms of one or more of the exemptions set out in sections 28 to 35, 38, 39(1) or 41 of the Act.

The public interest overwhelmingly lies in protecting your right to privacy and an individual’s own personal information is exempt from disclosure in terms of the exemption at section 38(1)(a).

Sections 38(1)(b) and 38(1)(2A) of the Act also apply insofar as you have requested third party personal data which is exempt from disclosure where it is assessed that disclosure would contravene the data protection principles as defined in the Act.

I understand that the statement above may seem confusing and/ or unhelpful in the circumstances but I would stress once again that this is the response to your FOI request only. You may be entitled to limited information under the Subject Access Request(SAR)process and as such, you may wish consider submitting a SAR for your own personal data – further details are available on our [website](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/data-protection/subject-access-requests).

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 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 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.