

Our Ref.: FOI 22-2663  
Date: 20 December 2022



## Freedom of Information Request - Response

I refer to your recent correspondence seeking information about the death of a person.

In Scotland, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) have procedures in place to provide bereaved families with information about the death of their loved one.

Further details can be found in their [Family Liaison Charter](#) and [Guide for Bereaved Family Members](#) and you can contact them as follows:

[enquiry@copfs.gov.uk](mailto:enquiry@copfs.gov.uk)

COPFS, 25 Chambers Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1LA

There are no equivalent Police Scotland procedures and therefore whether you specifically requested it or not, your enquiry is being progressed as an FOI request.

Any FOI response is a *public disclosure* and so it is not usually possible to disclose information about particular individuals or related investigations. Your identity, and any relationship you may have had to the deceased cannot be taken into account.

I appreciate that this response will be disappointing but in terms of section 18 of the Act, I am refusing to confirm or deny whether the information sought is held by Police Scotland. The public interest overwhelmingly lies in protecting individuals' right to privacy and honouring their expectation of confidentiality. Furthermore, any information held for the purpose of an investigation, carried out with the aim of making a report to COPFS as respects the cause of death of a person, is exempt from disclosure in terms of section 34(2)(b) of the Act.

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](#), 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](#) in seven days' time.