| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-0435  Responded to: 21 February 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I am looking to make a Freedom of Information request in regards to cannabis-based prescription medicines.**

1. **Please could you provide copies of relevant training documents/excerpts that explain to officers how to manage situations where prescription medication users, generally or medical cannabis-specific, are stopped while operating a vehicle and would test positive, but their driving is not impaired?**
2. **Are alternative sobriety tests ever used, and under what circumstances? If yes, does this take into account the physical difficulties a prescription user may have? Please could you provide any supporting guidance or documentation about this given to front line officers.**
3. **Do your officers have any specific training around the use of prescription cannabis? Please could you provide a copy/excerpt of any relevant training or guidance.**
4. **Please could you provide excerpts of any guidance provided to front-line officers on procedures around prescription medication, particularly but not exclusively: Under what circumstances confiscation of prescription medication is reasonable Under what circumstances arrest of a prescription medication holder is reasonable What actions a police officer should take to verify if a prescription is genuine What actions a police officer should take when a member of the public raises legislation they are unfamiliar with?**

The information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

By way of explanation, we have no formal guidance documents or standard operating procedures regarding medical cannabis generally or specifically in relation to the points raised in your request.  To be of assistance however, I can advise you that Police Scotland has provided internal briefings to officers in relation to a person's possession of Cannabis based products for medicinal use (CBPMs). This has included detail on that person's right to do so once lawful authority is established. Police Scotland engages with Scottish Government, Public Health and the Sapphire Clinic on this subject to ensure all current detail is known and shared.

Officers will conduct enquiries to prove that a prescription is in place for the Cannabis Based Product in a person's possession. Persons who have possession of cannabis for medicinal use should produce relevant supporting documentation that it is legitimately prescribed to them.

Information regarding drug driving policy can be found at the following- [Drink, Drug, Driving (including Railway, Marine and Aviation) SOP](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/u5jhwnlp/drink-drug-driving-including-railway-marine-and-aviation-sop-v12.doc)

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.