| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1759  Responded to: 09 June 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am requesting the following information regarding Police Scotland’s policies and protocols for inter-agency communication with Children & Families Social Work services:

## All current policies, procedures, or guidance documents that outline how Police Scotland officers are expected to communicate with social work staff regarding child welfare cases.

## Protocols concerning the sharing of information between Police Scotland and social work, including guidance on confidentiality, data protection, and thresholds for escalation or referral.

## Procedures or policies for resolving professional disagreements or challenges between Police Scotland officers and social work staff.

## Any training materials or resources provided to Police Scotland officers about working collaboratively with social work or other partner agencies in multi-agency child welfare meetings.

## If the full disclosure of this information would exceed any applicable cost or time limits, I kindly request prioritisation of the policy documents and protocols outlined in points 1 and 2.

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 under Section 1(1) is exempt information”.

The information sought is publicly available within Police Scotland's SOPs which can be found online here:

[**Child Protection SOP**](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/boxmpeao/child-protection-sop.pdf) & [**Child Protection - Inter-Agency Referral Discussions SOP**](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/l23d3qtb/child-protection-inter-agency-referral-discussions-sop.pdf).

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](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) 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.