| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0819  Responded to: 25th April 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## In follow-up to FOI 22-2703 and 23-0310

## Please provide me with all correspondence related to inquiries into the “DUMY” call-sign.

## Please provide all additional correspondence including details of disposal in relation to the discipline case you provided

In regards to both of your questions, if I start off by just looking at the email aspect of correspondence, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

By way of explanation, we have previously attempted to conduct similar keyword searches to the one that would be required. In this case a search for emails containing the phrase “DUMY” and “callsign” along with potentially others such as misspellings like “dummy” would be required.

Despite extensive efforts to retrieve emails requested by keyword it has become clear that whilst we do have the facility to conduct a keyword search but we do not have the facility to limit this to a particular date range.

This means that any mention of the keywords on any date would be returned. These are returned as individual full mailbox archive files for each mailbox that contains these keywords.

Once these archives are retrieved, a manual process is required to confirm which emails within each file contain the keyword required. This is further complicated by the fact that we will simply know there is at least one email within the mailbox archive that contains the keyword. There could be 1 or 100 and so each email would need to be manually checked for the topic requested.

During previous similar keyword requests we have conducted a rough estimate using one of our divisions (A Division) which accounts for a bit over 1,300 mailboxes. It is estimated that 100-200 of these may contain the keywords requested. If this is extrapolated across our other divisions this would give us a rough estimate of 2,400 to 3,600 mailbox files to review but it is expected this number may be higher due to the relative size of some of our divisions.

At an average estimate of 30 minutes to check each mailbox file concerned, this equates to around 1,200 to 1,800 hours of work to complete.

This is before we consider a review of additional correspondence such as files/notes/minutes etc held by Police Scotland which would again require a degree of manual searching. It is likely a full check of all documents held by the force would add thousands of additional hours to the time it would take to comply with the request.

Police Scotland have assessed that the £600 cost limit within the Act equates to 40 hours of work and that your request would breach the cost threshold.

In order to be of assistance, you may wish to consider reducing the scope of your request to a group of mailboxes or staff and limiting it to a particular time period which may allow it to be progressed.

Whilst the overall answer to your two questions are that an excessive cost exemption applies, I note that you also specifically asked for the disposal of the “discipline case” provided. I have taken this to be in reference to the redacted copy of the conduct report in regards to regulation 13 of the Police Service of Scotland (Conduct) Regulations 2014 which was provided with the response to FOI 23-0310. As per section 10 of the provided report, this information was withheld as part of this response under Sections 30(c) as well as 35(1)(g) and (2)(b). I would direct you to this previous response for the rationale behind this.

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.