

**OFFICIAL**

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2021 & 2022  
Date: 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022



**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002**

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

**In relation to COVID-19**

**Can I have sight of the first Health & Safety risk assessment the Force produced along with the date it came into force and how it was published.**

**Can I see the medical advice the Force took prior to their issuing instructions relating to the removal of facial hair and wearing of FFP3 face masks to combat the spread of COVID.**

**Would you include the date that the Force sought that advice in your reply.**

Whilst you have submitted two separate FOI requests in relation to this topic, I have elected to answer them together due to their similar nature.

**Can I have sight of the first Health & Safety risk assessment the Force produced along with the date it came into force and how it was published.**

Unfortunately we no longer hold a copy of the first Health and Safety risk assessment published in relation to COVID-19. As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information requested is not held by Police Scotland.

The earliest version held is version 2.2, I have not included this as you have specifically asked for the first version produced. If you would like to be provided with a copy of version 2.2, you are welcome to submit a FOI request for this.

**Can I see the medical advice the Force took prior to their issuing instructions relating to the removal of facial hair and wearing of FFP3 face masks to combat the spread of COVID.**

**Would you include the date that the Force sought that advice in your reply.**

I can confirm that as this related to a Health and Safety issue rather than a medical matter, Police Scotland did not seek Medical Advice on the use/selection of FFP3 masks. As

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such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information requested is not held by Police Scotland.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to [foi@scotland.police.uk](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.