| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-2344  Responded to: 22 August 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## How many police officers were moved from Edinburgh to assist with the visit of the US President?

## What was the total number of available police officers in Edinburgh over that period?

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 following exemptions apply:

* Section 31(1) – National Security and Defence

Information is exempt information if it is required for purpose of safeguarding national security.

Disclosure of this information would undermine any ongoing or future operations to protect the security or infrastructure of the United Kingdom and increase the risk of harm to the public. If the information is disclosed it will assist groups, organisations and those with hostile intent to identify, with some accuracy, the likelihood of the deployment of officers for the commission of crime and take steps to prepare for such deployment. This in turn would provide them with tactical advantage when planning or perpetrating such plans and unlawful activities and maximise the impact of destruction, harm and disruption that may be caused.

* Section 35(1)(a)&(b) – Law enforcement

Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would or would be likely to prejudice substantially the prevention or detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

The requested information provides a significant insight into resource levels.  
Those with criminal intent would then be in a position to more accurately estimate the police response to incidents and the measures necessary to divert resources.

* Section 39(1) – Health, safety and the environment

The disclosure of the information requested has the potential to increase the risk of harm to operational police officers and members of the public.

One of the main purposes of the Police Service is to protect individuals and members of the public, to disclose the requested information would be contrary to that purpose.

These are non-absolute exemptions and requires the application of the public interest test.

I would suggest that public accountability may favour disclosure, given that the information concerns the efficient and effective use of resources by the Service. Likewise, disclosure of the information would also inform the public debate on the issue of policing and contribute to the accuracy of that debate.

However, any disclosure under FOI legislation is a disclosure to the world at large and any information identifying the focus of policing activity could be used to the advantage of criminals.

Consequently, in terms of the applicability of the exemptions listed above, the need to ensure the effective conduct of the service in relation to prevention and detection of crime and the public safety considerations involved in the delivery of operational policing clearly favour non-disclosure of the information requested.

It is important to note that the UK faces a serious and sustained threat from violent extremists, and this threat is greater in scale and ambition than any terrorist threats in the past. The police service has a duty to promote the safety of all individuals, whether protected or not, and will not reveal any information that might jeopardise this goal. To provide details of resources allocated to their protection is likely to place individuals at serious and increased risk.

Accordingly, I would argue that the need to ensure the efficient and effective conduct of the service favours non-disclosure of the information requested and on balance is significantly in the public interest. I cannot identify any corresponding viewpoint in disclosing the requested information and therefore the exemptions are upheld.

I must advise you that it is doubtful it could ever be in the public interest to disclose information which would jeopardise the delivery of policing and the safety of individuals and prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

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.