| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2873  Responded to: 17th January 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**In follow-up to request FOI 23-1943:**

**Could you please provide a copy of the policy/SOP that sets out the Police Scotland policy on access to external websites.**

**Could you also please state on the date on which a request for access was made for the following websites:**

[**https://sex-matters.org/**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsex-matters.org%2F&data=05%7C01%7CFOIEast%40scotland.police.uk%7Cdc044dae28704e1bb3e708dbdf7a0656%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638349487413657187%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=SLJQzsk9cu06pzFth5sZwMjTvBn88GqoxtW19hHFmcM%3D&reserved=0)

[**https://www.legalfeminist.org.uk/**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.legalfeminist.org.uk%2F&data=05%7C01%7CFOIEast%40scotland.police.uk%7Cdc044dae28704e1bb3e708dbdf7a0656%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638349487413657187%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=qKxNhmEhxMGKicAjXkFgWm8GVk%2BTJlSS%2FWhQOlaPOjE%3D&reserved=0)

[**https://forwomen.scot/**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforwomen.scot%2F&data=05%7C01%7CFOIEast%40scotland.police.uk%7Cdc044dae28704e1bb3e708dbdf7a0656%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638349487413657187%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=d2ZFg3FKDFXuxJx5m%2Fq9wsnvfzviShcwW%2FVZTRtS%2BCc%3D&reserved=0)

[**https://fairplayforwomen.com/**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffairplayforwomen.com%2F&data=05%7C01%7CFOIEast%40scotland.police.uk%7Cdc044dae28704e1bb3e708dbdf7a0656%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638349487413813425%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=CYwER52%2FPbauR2Aueh%2FcrR5PW4QJsDvKrb55zAERa2I%3D&reserved=0)

[**https://womansplaceuk.org/**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwomansplaceuk.org%2F&data=05%7C01%7CFOIEast%40scotland.police.uk%7Cdc044dae28704e1bb3e708dbdf7a0656%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638349487413813425%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=fjzqt%2FvQyg35JdtodcTDBBn0BzDVPS0J%2BMLTaG3RaNY%3D&reserved=0)

Please accept my apologies but it has been established during this FOI request that the information provided to you for request 23-1943 is not accurate.

The initial response advised websites are blocked until a Service request is received but this is not the case.

The default position is that any website has to be first identified as non-malicious and have a neutral or better reputation by our web gateway provider.

If it passes those checks, it is then checked if it has a known categorisation, which if it does and it is not specifically blocked (such as games or gambling) then the website would be allowed.

In the case of the websites listed, 4 out of 5 will be accessible as they pass those checks and so no service request would have been required. 1 of the sites is not accessible and that is <https://www.legalfeminist.org.uk/>. This site does not have a recognised categorisation by our web gateway provider and so is blocked.

It is cases such as this where if access was required, a service request would be submitted so that a query could be raised with our web gateway provider.

In the case of the mentioned website, no service request for access has been received and the site remains blocked.

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.