| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1833  Responded to: 25th June 2025 |
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I refer to your recent request for information which has not been repeated here due to the fact that it names specific individuals.

I am refusing to confirm or deny whether the personal information sought exists or is held by Police Scotland in terms of section 18 of the Act. Section 18 applies where the following two conditions are met:

* It would be contrary to the public interest to reveal whether the information is held.  
  Whilst we accept that you may have a particular personal interest in being informed as to whether the information sought is held, the overwhelming public interest lies in protecting individuals’ right to privacy and their expectation of confidence as regards their information.
* If the information was held, it would be exempt from disclosure. In this instance, sections 38(1)(b) and 38(1)(2A) of the Act apply insofar as you have requested *third party* personal data, the disclosure of which would contravene the data protection principles set out in the Act.

However, to be of assistance, I can advise that the [Sex Offender Community Disclosure Scheme](https://www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-information/child-abuse/the-sex-offender-community-disclosure/) was introduced across Scotland in 2011 and provides parents, carers or guardians with a formal mechanism for requesting information about someone involved in their family life, specifically if they are concerned that the person might be a child sexual offender.

The Scheme also provides for any other person who is concerned about a person’s access to someone else’s child to apply, albeit only the parent, carer or guardian can be given information under the Scheme.

Additionally, Registered Sex Offender (RSO) data by first part postcode is published on the Police Scotland website: [Registered Sex Offender Numbers - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/specialist-crime-division/sex-offender-policing-units/registered-sex-offender-rso-information/).

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.