| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-0424  Responded to: xx March 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## By way of background, I should state that my Freedom of Information (FOI) request concerns the police investigation into the murder of 75-year-old Andrew Kennedy Bruce in Burray, Orkney, on March 13-14, 1969. The case was brought to Aberdeen High Court at the beginning of June 1969 and, on June 4, a not proven verdict was reached concerning the accused, 18-year-old Alexander Walter Bruce. The accused passed away in 1972, according to his death certificate.

## By way of the Freedom of Information Act (Scotland) 2002, I would like to request any and all records held by Police Scotland from the investigation into this murder. If the cost exemption stipulated in the Act precludes the provision of all records, please provide a full list of the kind (i.e. witness statements) and number of records which are held by Police Scotland concerning the murder investigation.

I must first advise you that records of any historical investigations would be retained in line with the relevant retention policy at that time.

I can confirm after searching through all of the current and legacy force indexes, no trace was found of any of the information you requested.

Any investigation that took place in the 1960's would have been recorded in paper files and as we have been unable to trace any materials held by Police Scotland relating to this investigation, or to the individual in question I must respond in terms of Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002: Information not held.

To be of some assistance, I can advise you that records of historical value may be deposited with the appropriate local Archive Service when their operational and/or administrative usefulness has come to an end.

With this in mind you may wish to contact the archivist which holds records deposited by the previous Highland & Islands legacy forces, and where specialist archivists may be able to offer you further advice and assistance.

In this respect, I can advise you that ‘Orkney Constabulary’ was the legacy force in 1969 and that [Orkney Archives](https://orkneylibrary.org.uk/orkney-archive/) hold some police records from this period. It may be worthwhile to make further enquires with them.

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.