| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-2251  Responded to: 21 August 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I am requesting confirmation of the date or date range on which the following well-known juvenile incident occurred:**

**The killing and torture of multiple domestic cats by a male minor in Aberdeen which has previously been partially reported by the press in anonymised form.**

**A subsequent police response involving the child being removed from the family home following threats of serious violence to his mother and siblings;**

**A police-initiated welfare visit to the child’s girlfriend’s residence to warn her and her family of potential danger.**

**This matter was the subject of anonymised court reporting and local press coverage, and the person involved is now over the age of 16. I am attempting to confirm whether the incident occurred during the window of 14–17 September 2023, which aligns with a known safeguarding timeline under investigation, which has additional significant impact to ongoing concerns.**

**Confirmation of whether this incident occurred between 14 and 17 September 2023, and if possible the exact date;**

**If not, the accurate date or date range of the incident involving the events outlined above;**

**Confirmation of whether a safeguarding referral or formal risk assessment was triggered by Police Scotland following the incident.**

In terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to confirm or deny whether the 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

- If the information was held, it would be exempt from disclosure in terms of one or more of the exemptions set out in sections 28 to 35, 38, 39(1) or 41 of the Act.

In this instance, if the information was held, the following exemptions would apply:

**Section 34(1)(b) – Investigations**

Information is exempt if it has at any time been held by Police Scotland for the purposes of an investigation which may lead to a report to the Procurator Fiscal to enable it to be determined whether criminal proceedings should be instituted.

This should not be taken to mean that any information is or is not held.

**Section 38(1)(b) - Personal information (third parties)**

The disclosure of *third party* personal data would contravene the data protection principles set out in the Act

To disclose whether or not information was held would confirm whether or not the circumstances referred to were in some way known to Police Scotland.

By way of further background, a public authority can refuse to confirm or deny whether it holds information, provided it is satisfied that revealing whether the information exists or is held would be contrary to the public interest. In such instances, it is recognised that harm exists even in confirming or denying in the public domain that the information is held.

Accordingly, in this instance, I believe it would be contrary to the public interest to reveal whether or not the information sought exists or is held.

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](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) 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.