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Our Ref: IM-FOI-2021-2863  
Date: 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021



## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002**

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

### **In follow-up to IM-FOI-2021-2641:**

**Please provide all correspondence between Police Scotland and the leader of Glasgow City Council mentioning COP26 for the period between May 1, 2021 and June 1, 2021.**

In response to your request, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

By way of explanation, whilst I appreciate you have reduced the timescale covered by your request from 6 months to just 1 month, as previously advised, our email system does not have the facility to limit searches to a particular date range.

As previously advised we normally cannot run searches for all emails within Police Scotland due to the large amount of emails we hold, it was hoped that as emails to and from a particular recipient was requested, it may be possible. Despite extensive efforts to retrieve the emails requested it has become clear that whilst we do have the facility to conduct a search of our email system we do not have the facility to limit this to a particular date range.

This means that any email to or from the requested recipient on any date will be returned. These are returned as individual full mailbox archive files for each mailbox that contains this recipient.

Once these archives are retrieved, a manual process is required to confirm which emails within each file are relevant and which date it was sent or received on. This is further

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complicated by the fact that we will simply know there is at least one email within the mailbox archive. There could be 1 or 100 and so each email would need to be manually checked.

In order to be of some assistance we then attempted to retrieve this information basing it on those most likely to hold the requested information namely those within the senior management team for the relevant division, those involved in the policing operation for COP26 and our Force Executive.

Unfortunately due to the volume of mailboxes involved, this is again a task that would take a large amount of time to complete.

Both of these approaches would also not include any emails saved to file folders. Police Scotland encourages users not utilise mailboxes as a filing structure and to save emails to file folders when required. A manual review of all file folders would also be required to find any saved emails that matched your criteria which would add further time to the task to find the relevant emails.

Police Scotland have assessed that the £600 cost limit within the Act equates to 40 hours of work and that your request would breach the cost threshold.

I am unsure on how best you could refine your request to allow it to be completed within the cost limits of the Act. You may wish to consider requesting emails from a limited group of mailboxes but I would point out that we have already made an attempt to do this with the outcome noted above.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to [foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk) or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.