| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1045  Responded to: 30 April 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Does Police Scotland comply with the Misuse of a drugs Act 1971 and the changes made to the controlled drugs regulations that come into effect on 1 April 2013. This is especially relevant for custody suite in NHS Grampian area of responsibility p.

Police Scotland comply with all relevant legislation and are subject to regular external inspection from both Health Improvement Scotland and HMICS.

## Do the custody suite office, registered all the controlled drugs prescribed by a clinician.

The prescribing and registering of controlled drugs is a matter for the relevant NHS Health Board covering the specific custody suite.  All medication supplied to an individual in custody is recorded on the Police Scotland National Custody System.

## My questions are:

## Are the drugs kept in an approved lockable metal cupboard.

NHS Health Boards are the primary agency responsible for the management of prescribed medications.

## Who controls the keys to the cupboard.

The prescribing and registering of controlled drugs is a matter for the relevant NHS Health Board covering the specific custody suite.  All medication supplied to an individual in custody is recorded on the Police Scotland National Custody System.  The management of keys varies from suite to suite dependent upon the operating model in place at that particular custody centre.

## Are the medication countersigned for when handed to detainees , NHS Grampian has admitted they had no controlled drugs licence.

The prescribing and registering of controlled drugs is a matter for the relevant NHS Health Board covering the specific custody suite.  All medication supplied to an individual in custody is recorded on the Police Scotland National Custody System.

## Does Police Scotland have its own separate controlled drugs licence for each of its custody suites as per the regulations.

No. NHS Health Boards are the primary agency responsible for the provision of Health Care within Police Custody Suites.

## Who is the controlled drugs accountable Officer, that carries out audits annual.  All organisations within the region are required to report controlled drug incidents and concerns to the CDAO. The Lead CDAOs are required to set up Controlled Drugs Local Intelligence Networks (CD LINs) to share concerns and good practice within their area.

## It cannot be NHS Grampian CDAO,  he didn’t audit any custody suites for ten years.

The information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

NHS Health Boards are the primary agency responsible for the provision of Health Care within Police Custody Suites.

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.