| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0720  Responded to: 13th April 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I would also request all correspondance emails and Policy decision emails made by senior management team of road Policing in relation to the Policy relating to being clean shaven.

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, we have previously attempted to conduct similar keyword searches similar to your request. In this case a search for emails containing the phrases “clean shaven”, “shaven”, “beard”, “medical” and “religious” along with other potential options.

Despite extensive efforts to retrieve emails requested by keyword it has become clear that whilst we do have the facility to conduct a keyword search but we do not have the facility to limit this to a particular date range.

This means that any mention of the keywords on any date would be returned. These are returned as individual full mailbox archive files for each mailbox that contains these keywords.

Once these archives are retrieved, a manual process is required to confirm which emails within each file contain the keyword required. This is further complicated by the fact that we will simply know there is at least one email within the mailbox archive that contains the keyword. There could be 1 or 100 and so each email would need to be manually checked for the topic requested.

Whilst I note you have asked for a specific set of mailboxes to be checked, due to the number of officers this covers, which would be from Inspector upwards based on the information asked for, it is going to take a significant amount of time to complete.

At an average of 30 minutes to check each mailbox file concerned, it is estimated it would take hundreds of hours to complete your request.

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.

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.