| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-2317  Responded to: 07 August 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I am writing under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 to request the following information regarding the illegal release of lynx in the Kingussie area:

## Investigation Status

## • Has Police Scotland conducted any investigation into the illegal release of lynx near Kingussie in early January 2025, specifically from 8 January 2025, when the first lynx were reported?

## Suspects or Organisations Involved

## • Have any individual(s) or organisation(s) been investigated in connection with this incident?

## Charges and Legal Proceedings • Have any charges been brought against any party? If so, please provide: • The name(s) of those charged (where not exempt), • The nature of the charges, • The legislation under which charges were made, • The current status of any legal proceedings.

## Case Closure

## • If no charges have been brought, has the case been closed? If so, please provide details on the outcome and rationale

The matter you are enquiring about is subject to a live police enquiry.

As such the information sought is held by Police Scotland, but I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that following exemptions applies:

* Section 34 – Investigations by a Scottish public authorities and proceedings arising out of such investigations.

Section 34(1)(b) of the Act provides an absolute exemption from disclosure in that information is exempt information if it has at any time been held by Police Scotland for the purposes of an investigation which may lead to a decision to make a report to the Procurator Fiscal to enable it to be determined whether criminal proceedings should be instituted.

* Section 35 – Law enforcement

Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would or would be likely to prejudice substantially the prevention or detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

Disclosure of the requested information would impact on the process of investigating this case. One of the main purposes of the Police Service is to prevent crime but to release this information would be contrary to that purpose.

## Number of Animals Involved

## •How many lynx were believed to have been released illegally? Public sources indicate at least four lynx were involved — please confirm the official number.

I can confirm that 4 Lynxes were involved

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.