| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-2470Responded to: 01 September 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information regarding Rangers FC vs Celtic FC (Men’s Teams) for each of the last three seasons (2022–23, 2023–24, 2024–25)

## The number of police officers deployed for each fixture in or around Celtic Park Stadium on the dates of; 16 Mar 2025, 01 Sept 2024, 11 May 2024

## The number of police officers deployed for each fixture in or around Ibrox Stadium on the dates of; 04 May 2025, 02 Jan 2025, 07 Apr 2024

## A breakdown of which types of units were deployed (e.g., mounted units, public order teams, plainclothes officers, tactical support groups, etc.) for each of the above dates.

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 the following exemptions apply:

Sections 35(a) and b) Law Enforcement and Section 39(1) Health, Safety and the Environment.

## Section 35(a) and (b) Law Enforcement

The information requested is exempt, as its disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice substantially the prevention or detection of crime and apprehension or prosecution of offenders. Release of specific levels of policing would adversely impact on the operational effectiveness of the Service. Being aware of deployment details would allow persons or groups intent on committing offences or causing disorder with the means to make a reasonable assessment of future football matches. This in turn would allow those individuals or groups to make an accurate assessment of the capacity of the Service to deal with incidents at specific matches, compromising any tactical advantage the police may have over such persons or groups when dealing with any crime or disorder.

This is a non-absolute exemption and requires the application of the Public Interest Test.

**Section 39(1) Health, Safety and the Environment**

The information requested is exempt as its disclosure would or would be likely to endanger the physical health or safety of an individual. To disclose the strategic intentions of the police service would allow those intent on committing crime or causing disorder to gauge the likelihood of detection or to take measures to negate the likelihood of detection. This would leave members of the public at an increased risk of being the victim of crime, unruly or intimidating behaviour and jeopardise wider community safety.

This is a non-absolute exemption and requires the application of the Public Interest Test.

## Public Interest Test

Releasing the information relevant to this request would lead to a better-informed public, improving their knowledge and understanding of how the Police Service of Scotland provides a key role in protecting the public at football matches. This would increase public debate and encourage accountability regarding the delivery of this area of core policing.

In general terms, release of the information relating to how existing or future fixtures are policed, would ultimately reveal specific operational strategies. Any such release would either compromise or significantly weaken police tactics and would also undermine any ongoing investigations and potentially any future investigations, enabling targeted individuals or groups to become aware of such strategies and find ways to circumvent them. Furthermore, this would reveal the thought processes and techniques employed by Police Scotland and would in turn help subjects avoid detection and inhibit the prevention and detection of crime. It is reasonable to expect Police Scotland to ensure that all information held is managed effectively and where necessary, be cautious as to the level of detail released into the public domain.

Given the need for police to provide an effective, proportionate and professional response to policing such events, I would argue that the need to ensure the efficient and effective conduct of the service in a key law enforcement role favours non-disclosure of the information requested.

## The total number of arrests made in connection with each match - including before, during, and after the game - and the nature of the offences (e.g., disorder, alcohol, assault, pitch invasion, etc.) for each of the above dates.

The overall cost (if available) to the police for providing match-day policing for each fixture.

Celtic Park –

16 March 2025

No arrests

Overall costs £53,786

01 September 2024

1 x arrest – Pyro

Overall costs £17,964

11 May 2024

No arrests

Overall costs £17,010

Ibrox Stadium

04 May 2025

1 x Sec 38 (Racial aggravation)

3 x Sec 38

Overall costs £53,924

02 Jan 2025

No arrests

Overall costs £17,274

07 Apr 2024

No arrests

Overall costs £16,688

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 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 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.