| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-0616  Responded to: 13 March 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Also the FOI is for my intelligence if the police could supply me with any relevance to travelling community.**

In terms of section 18 of the Act, I am refusing to confirm or deny whether Police Scotland holds information about you.

The public interest overwhelmingly lies in protecting your right to privacy and an individual’s own personal information is exempt from disclosure in terms of the exemption at section 38(1)(a).

I understand that the statement above may seem confusing and/ or unhelpful in the circumstances, but I would stress that this is the appropriate response under FOI to the question raised.

In addition, I am refusing to confirm or deny whether the information sought exists or is held by Police Scotland in terms of section 18 of the Act.

Section 18 applies where the following two conditions are met:

- It would be contrary to the public interest to reveal whether the information is held

- If the information was held, it would be exempt from disclosure in terms of one or more of the exemptions set out in sections 28 to 35, 38, 39(1) or 41 of the Act.

If the above data was held, the following exemptions would be considered relevant:

**Section 31(1) - National Security and Defence**

Information is exempt information if it is required for purpose of safeguarding national security.

Disclosure would undermine any ongoing or future operations to protect the security or infrastructure of the United Kingdom and increase the risk of harm to the public. The public entrust the Police Service to make appropriate decisions with regard to their safety and protection and the only way of reducing risk is to be cautious with what is placed into the public domain.

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

**Section 35(1)(a)&(b) – 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 would assist those with intent on doing harm with a tactical advantage when planning or perpetrating criminal plans and unlawful activities, and maximise the impact of destruction, harm and disruption that may be caused.

One of the main purposes of the Police Service is to prevent crime but to release this information would be contrary to that purpose.

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

## Public Interest Test

I do appreciate that there is a degree of interest in the release of such information: however this must be tempered against what is of interest to the public and what is in the public interest. It is in the public interest that an understanding exists as to the processes involved in police investigations and in their relative success. Therefore, accountability and transparency relating to the actions of the Service and our officers would favour disclosure of the information.

However, any disclosure under FOI legislation is a disclosure to the world at large and any information identifying the focus of policing activity could be used to the advantage of criminals.

Consequently, in terms of the applicability of the exemptions listed above, the need to ensure the effective conduct of the service in relation to prevention and detection of crime and the public safety considerations involved in the delivery of operational policing clearly favour non-disclosure of the information requested.

It is important to note that the UK faces a serious and sustained threat from violent extremists and this threat is greater in scale and ambition than any terrorist threats in the past. The police service has a duty to promote the safety of all individuals, whether protected or not, and will not reveal any information that might jeopardise this goal. To provide details of resources allocated to their protection is likely to place individuals at serious and increased risk.

Accordingly, I would argue that the need to ensure the efficient and effective conduct of the service favours non-disclosure of the information requested and on balance is significantly in the public interest. I cannot identify any corresponding viewpoint in disclosing the requested information and therefore the exemptions are upheld.

I must advise you that it is doubtful it could ever be in the public interest to disclose information which would jeopardise the delivery of policing and the safety of individuals and prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

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.