| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1180  Responded to: 7th May 2024 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## For the period 1-April-23 to 31-March 2024, we please require disclosure of: -

## The grid Electricity kwh’s consumed & the £-value spent (excl-vat).

## The natural Gas kwh’s consumed & the £-value spent (excl-vat).

The net consumption of electricity and natural gas for the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024 is as follows:

Electricity (kWh) – 49,145,166

Gas (kWh) – 71,703,167

In response to your request regarding the net cost of energy consumed, I must respond in terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 however, I am refusing to provide you with this information.

Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

(a) States that it holds the information,

(b) States that it is claiming an exemption,

(c) Specifies the exemption in question and

(d) States, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information requested. The exemption that I consider to be applicable is:

Section 33(1)(b) - Commercial Interests.

The information requested is a specific part of the contract details with Police Scotland and the service provider.

To explain, Police Scotland are part of the National Energy Procurement Framework that procures gas and electricity on behalf of the Major Players within the Scottish Public Sector.

Procurement Scotland, who operates this Framework, confirm that pricing information within the Framework contract is commercially sensitive and is not suitable for public disclosure.

Accordingly, there is an expectation that any relevant information held by Police Scotland is not disclosed to the general public or another organisation which may gain a competitive advantage in receiving this information, to the detriment of any future contract.

Any such disclosure is likely to negatively impact on the national procurement process used by the service to ensure it purchases the most efficient and cost-effective services in the future and prejudice the commercial interests of Police Scotland.

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

Police Scotland acknowledge that disclosure would allow greater scrutiny of the way public funds are spent, it would increase accountability and transparency in terms of spending, to ensure best value for money.

Police Scotland is a publicly funded organisation and therefore the Service has an obligation to obtain best value for money, in this instance by maintaining a strong working relationship with Procurement Scotland who ensure stability and reliability to energy pricing in the public sector.

The public interest would not be served if they believed that conducting business with Police Scotland would result in their confidential financial information being released, and accordingly the exemption is upheld.

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.