| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-2710  Responded to: 05 September 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Q. What policy or procedure does Police Scotland have in relation to malicious complaints against the police, in light of the below from Dame Angiolini's 2020 Independent Review of Complaints Handling, Investigations and Misconduct Issues in Relation to Policing, the following section 7.122**

**Anyone who knowingly makes a false complaint or allegation about a police officer or member of police support staff may be prosecuted by the Procurator Fiscal for the offence of wasting police time or attempting to pervert the course of justice.**

**(In recent years there have been two such cases arising out of complaints against the police where proceedings were taken by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service for wasting police time.) Such individuals may also be liable to civil action by the person about whom they complained. In order to deal effectively with malicious complaints all the receiving organisations should have a policy that ensures consistency in handling, and helps to mitigate potential reputational damage from false allegations.**

The information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

By way of explanation, the [Complaints About the Police](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/lgyddvsi/complaints-about-the-police-sop.docx) SOPdetails malicious complaints, however, does not specify any guidelines or procedures on the handling of such complaints.

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.