

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1991
Date: 19 October 2022



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

Copies of all the Public Order Strategic Threat Risk Assessments (STRA) compiled since January 2020. If it contains restricted info, please can you redact it or summarise the findings?

If you are unable to provide the documents themselves, then please indicate the areas included within the STRAs broken down for each of the STRAs which have been published (e.g. Climate Protests, Anti-immigration raid protests).

Any copies of STRAs (issued since January 2018) which include references to immigration raids, anti-immigration raid protests, or protests/direct action which seeks to disrupt deportations

A total of 17 reports of relevance to your request have been sourced - *all* quarterly reports since January 2020 plus any prior (since January 2018) which reference immigration specifically.

The purpose of these reports is to identify and assess the known and emerging threats and risks which may require a proportionate public order policing response.

This, in turn, enables Police Scotland to monitor, on a continual basis, its response to the threats posed by public order related incidents.

Incidents to which a Public Order response may be required by Police Scotland can be broadly classified into five categories:

- Sporting and other Major Events
- Notified Protest
- Spontaneous Events
- Day to Day Small Scale Incidents
- Emerging Trends

I note that although you have expressed some interest in immigration issues specifically, you have in both parts of your request sought access to the entire STRA reports.

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As I'm sure you will appreciate, the content of the documents is wide ranging and includes intelligence, investigative and operational information and also risk assessment/ tactical information.

Having assessed the documents, overall I am of the view that they are not suitable for public disclosure in their current form and further, that redaction to the extent required would render the remaining content essentially meaningless.

In terms of section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am therefore refusing to provide you with the information sought.

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 you have requested and the exemptions that I consider to be applicable are set out at:

Section 35(1)(a)&(b) - Law Enforcement
Section 39(1) - Health and Safety

The content of the documents is assessed as highly operationally sensitive with the potential to be exploited to assist in the commission of crime and/ or the creation of harm.

On that basis, it is assessed that withholding the documents from public release is necessary in order to ensure no prejudice to the prevention and detection of crime and to keep officers and the public safe from harm.

I appreciate that there is a significant public interest in better informing the public as to how the police deal with public order incidents/ protests etc - but, that interest must be balanced with maintaining the operational effectiveness of the force.

It cannot be in the public interest to disclose information that provides an operational insight into how the police tackle these issues to the extent that any police response could be compromised.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

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If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.

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