

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2321
Date: 29 November 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.

- **The number of police officers who were deployed to deal with disorder in the Kirkton area of Dundee on 31 October 2022;**

In terms of section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am 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.

Section 35(1)(a)&(b) - Law Enforcement

Disclosure would be likely to prejudice substantially the prevention or detection of crime and apprehension or prosecution of offenders. The information sought provides a significant insight into the resource levels routinely deployed in the Dundee area and would therefore allow those intent on committing crime or causing disorder to gauge the likelihood of detection and take measures to negate it.

It would allow criminals to plan how best to engage or occupy existing police resources in an effort to maximise their chances of committing serious crime.

Section 39 (1) - Health, safety and the environment

Disclosure would be likely to endanger the physical safety of police officers and members of the public as criminals would use the information sought to increase their chances of committing crime and causing disorder undetected.

Accountability would favour disclosure, given that the information concerns the efficient and effective use of resources by Police Scotland. Likewise, disclosure of the information would also inform the public debate on the issue of policing and contribute to the accuracy of that debate.

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However, the applicability of the exemptions listed above, the need to ensure the effective conduct of Police Scotland in relation to prevention and detection of crime and the public safety considerations clearly favour non-disclosure of the information requested.

On balance I would contend that the public interest in disclosing the information is outweighed by that in maintaining the exemptions listed as it cannot be in the public interest to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime or endanger officers and the public.

- **The number of these police officers who sustained injuries in the course of their duties;**
- **A breakdown of the types and causes of injuries suffered by these police officers;**

One officer sustained superficial injuries as a result of glass smashing in his vehicle.

- **Any communications between Police Scotland and supermarkets/stores in Dundee concerning the sale of fireworks following the disorder.**

No correspondence is held which meets the terms of your request and section 17 of the Act therefore applies - the information sought is not held by Police Scotland.

I can confirm however that any discussion with supermarkets/ retail outlets was expressly a reminder to comply with legislation and ensure they were not supplying to under age children.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee at foidundee@scotland.police.uk 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.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

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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