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Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1924  
Date: 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

**In October 2021 the NPCC asked police forces to conduct reviews into handling of reports of domestic abuse / exposure / other VAWG related allegations involving police officers and staff.**

**At the time NPCC Chair Martin Hewitt said: “We’ve commissioned a review of all of the incidents that relate to violence against women and girls, and issues around indecent exposure... any of those incidents by serving police officers and staff.”**

**It was said the work was to be coordinated by the NPCC - but that police forces would conduct the individual reviews internally.**

**Please disclose to me, under the Freedom of Information Act, any findings / data / reports / reviews by your police force in response to this request from the NPCC.**

**I appreciate that if names of any complainants (or details that would lead to them being identified) are included - they will need to be redacted. However, I would ask that information submitted to the NPCC is not summarized / abridged etc for the purposes of responding to this request.**

**The information I request might simply be a document/report that was submitted to the NPCC. However, if a limited and / or random sample of cases was submitted to the NPCC - I would ask that the full set of results / data / cases is disclosed (IF this is in a format that can be identified and retrieved within the time limit).**

Please find attached the requested information attached. I can confirm we did not submit a sample of cases to the NPCC.

I must advise that it has been necessary to withhold some of the information requested, therefore, 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,

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- (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 exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at:

**Section 38(1)(b) – Personal Information**

Any information that could lead to the identification of individuals has been redacted. This is in accordance with Section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 – Personal Information.

This relates to the name of any staff member within Police Scotland of a more junior role (below the rank of Superintendent or Head of Department). Those of a more senior rank would have been included if present as it is deemed within the public interest to do so.

As such, the processing would be unfair and unlawful in respect of the individuals concerned and would therefore be in breach of the first principle of the Data Protection Act 2018.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.