| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-1004Responded to: 15 April 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I would like to request under freedom of information act. All collar numbers of J division whom is put in place to serve and protect my county of West Lothian between 2017-2025**

We have interpreted your request as seeking the shoulder number of all police officers within J Division who are who are based in West Lothian specifically - which we would define as Bathgate, Broxburn, Linlithgow, Livingston, West Calder and Whitburn.

On that basis, the information sought is held by Police Scotland, but I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the following exemptions apply:

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

Disclosure would prejudice substantially the prevention or detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

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

Disclosure would endanger the physical health and safety of police officers and members of the public.

The problem with your request isn’t the shoulder numbers themselves but the fact that disclosure would reveal officer resource levels in West Lothian specifically.

Police Scotland will only reveal police officer numbers to division level and not beyond as doing so provides a tactical advantage to those with criminal intent when planning or perpetrating any unlawful activities.

Awareness as to the likely police response maximises the destruction, harm and disruption that may be caused as a result and assists offenders in avoiding being brought to justice.

These exemptions are not absolute and require the application of the Public Interest Test.

Public accountability would favour disclosure, given the information concerns the efficient and effective use of resources.

Likewise, disclosure would inform the public debate on the issue of policing and contribute to the accuracy of that debate.

However, any information identifying the focus of policing activity could be used to the advantage of criminals.

Consequently, I would argue that balance of the public interest lies in ensuring that Police Scotland can prevent and detect crime effectively and keep the public and police officers safe from harm.

To be of assistance, Officer numbers for J Division can be found at the link below.

[Police Scotland Officer Numbers - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/police-scotland-officer-numbers/)

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 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 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.