

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0151  
Date: 31<sup>st</sup> January 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.

### **1. Since the death of Willie McRae on April 7, 1985, how many statements have police recorded?**

As at the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022, I can confirm that there have been a total of 56 witnesses who have provided statements since the 7<sup>th</sup> April 1985 in relation to the death of Mr. McRae.

It should be noted that some of these witnesses provided an additional statement to Police during the course of the enquiry.

This information was taken from all available reports and witness lists currently held by Police Scotland's Homicide Governance & Review department.

### **2. I would like the figures to be broken down by year.**

The following is a breakdown of witness statements obtained during the initial enquiry and any subsequent review or further investigatory captures:-

1985 – 34 witnesses/ statements  
2011 – 15 witnesses/ statements  
2014 – 7 witnesses/ statements

### **3. How has the case been classified by police? Is it an open case or closed?**

### **4. If the case is closed, what are the overall findings?**

Following a thorough investigation into the death of Willie McRae on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1985, Officers concluded that there were no suspicious circumstances and, as with all sudden deaths, a report was sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

Reviews by the Northern Constabulary and the Crown Office into the matter in 2010/11 did not raise any new matters.

Police Scotland remains satisfied that the investigation was conducted thoroughly and the case was concluded once the report was sent to the Procurator Fiscal. However, any

## OFFICIAL

further information or evidence reported to Police Scotland on any case will always be considered.

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](mailto:foi@scotland.pnn.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.