| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-0447  Responded to: 09 May 2025 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## What is the force’s policy on naming police officers charged with criminal offences? If no local or national policy exists, what is the force’s official position on naming officers in such cases?

We proactively name officers in news releases on conviction and/or sentencing.  
We provide the name of any individual, officer or member of the public who has been arrested, on request, to media in line with the Lord Advocate’s guidelines – which are freely available on the COPFS website – so that media can ensure they comply with the Contempt of Court Act. Cases become live under the Contempt of Court act on arrest.

Additionally, please provide copies of all press releases issued in 2024 concerning police officers charged with criminal offences.

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 section 25(1) and 27(1) exemptions apply:

“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it […] is exempt information”

Press releases are published on the Police Scotland website. Available at the link below:

[News - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/news/)

Finally, please provide the number of police officers and special constables charged or summoned to court between 1st January 2024 and 31st December 2024.  
Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

By way of explanation, to provide the information requested a manual assessment of the necessary records would need to take place to identify when or if an officer or special constable was charged or summoned to court within the time period specified. This is an exercise that would greatly exceed the cost threshold set out within the Act.

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](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) 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](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) 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.