| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-2230  Responded to: 29 July 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Following recent public messages about genocide.**

**When carrying out your duties with members of the public:**

**1) What do Police Scotland understand about simple sentence construction.?**

**2) What is the use of a capital letter?**

**3) What denotes the end of a sentence?**

**4) What is the purpose of a sentence?**

As you may be aware, Freedom of Information legislation provides a right of access to recorded information only.

In terms of our section 15 duty to advise and assist applicants, we have therefore interpreted your request as seeking any recorded information held by Police Scotland which would speak to how well our officers and staff understand the English language/ grammatical matters outlined in these questions.

As such, section 17 of the Act applies as the information sought is not held by Police Scotland.

**5) Did your P.C.'s study English Literacy P7 at Primary School?**

Whilst we will hold information about the educational background of all Police Scotland officers, it is considered highly unlikely that this would extend to a detailed syllabus in relation to their primary education. As such, section 17 of the Act applies as the information sought is not held by Police Scotland.

**6) How many people have been wrongfully arrested because your Pc's didn't understand the use of capitalisation and full stops on a placard?**

**7) How much will this cost the taxpayer?**

The information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

By way of explanation, Police Scotland do not routinely record information on 'wrongful arrests' and there is no definition of same, leaving it open to interpretation.

For example, there are situations whereby an arrested person can be released from police custody prior to their arrival at a police station - effectively they are ‘de-arrested’ - where the reasonable grounds for suspicion no longer exist.

​If it was of interest, we could provide you with data on unlawful arrest compensation payments made - as relevant to the circumstances described in your request.

If that would be of interest, please let us know, clarifying a time period for research.

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.