| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1477  Responded to: 16th June 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Ward 15 Edinburgh Southside Newington**

**Request between 05/05/2022 and 03/06/2023 inclusive in ward 15 area Edinburgh**

**Results of Local Government Elections that took place on 5 May 2022.**

Police Scotland are not involved in local government elections and do not hold the results requested. As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information requested is not held by Police Scotland.

**To request copies of all communication from PS to Local government related to Traffic management**

If I start off by just looking at the email aspect of your request, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

By way of explanation, we have previously attempted to conduct similar keyword searches to the one that would be required. In this case a search for emails containing the phrases “traffic management”, “road closures”, “Spaces for People” and “Traffic Regulation Order” along with potentially others would be required.

Despite extensive efforts to retrieve emails requested by keyword it has become clear that whilst we do have the facility to conduct a keyword search but we do not have the facility to limit this to a particular date range.

This means that any mention of the keywords on any date would be returned. These are returned as individual full mailbox archive files for each mailbox that contains these keywords.

Once these archives are retrieved, a manual process is required to confirm which emails within each file contain the keyword required. This is further complicated by the fact that we will simply know there is at least one email within the mailbox archive that contains the keyword. There could be 1 or 100 and so each email would need to be manually checked for the topic requested.

During previous similar keyword requests we have conducted a rough estimate using one of our divisions (A Division) which accounts for a bit over 1,300 mailboxes. It is estimated that 100-200 of these may contain the keywords requested. If this is extrapolated across our other divisions this would give us a rough estimate of 2,400 to 3,600 mailbox files to review but it is expected this number may be higher due to the relative size of some of our divisions.

At an average estimate of 30 minutes to check each mailbox file concerned, this equates to around 1,200 to 1,800 hours of work to complete.

This is before we consider a review of additional correspondence such as files/notes/minutes etc held by Police Scotland which would again require a degree of manual searching. It is likely a full check of all documents held by the force would add thousands of additional hours to the time it would take to comply with the request.

Police Scotland have assessed that the £600 cost limit within the Act equates to 40 hours of work and that your request would breach the cost threshold.

To be of some assistance, we did attempt to limit your request to just our Road Policing department but again due to the broad nature of your request, it would take a large amount of time to manually sift just the emails returned and would exceed the cost limit.

You may wish to consider reducing the scope of your request to a more specific topic and to a group of mailboxes or staff which may allow it to be progressed.

**To request dates of all communication from PS to Local news reporters related to Traffic management**

In response to your request, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

By way of explanation, the information management system used by our News Desk can be broken down to divisional level but not to council ward level. We would have to examine each record within the time frame requested for our Edinburgh division to confirm if it related to traffic management and then check if this was within the relevant ward.

In this case 3,531 records would need to be manually checked. At a conservative estimate of 2 minutes per record, this equates to 110 hours of work to provide the information requested.

Police Scotland have assessed that the £600 cost limit within the Act equates to 40 hours of work and so this part of your request would breach the cost threshold.

You may wish to consider reducing the timescale your request covers which may allow some information to be provided.

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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) 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.