| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 24-3273Responded to: 14 January 2025 |
| --- | --- |

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

**I saw in the Herald newspaper on 28 December that Police Scotland had reported having made three arrests for pyrotechnic offences prior to the Hear v Hibs football match at Tynecastle on 26 December. (two for carrying pyrotechnics and one for allegedly setting off pyrotechnics) Can you confirm how many arrests were made by Police Scotland for pyrotechnic offenses that took place between Celtic and Rangers fans in Glasgow City Centre on Sunday 15 December, prior to these teams playing at Hampden Park that day? I haven’t seen anything reported in the press and that’s why I ask. I did see online a comment from Chief Superintendent Stevie Dolan saying that “We have dealt with a number of incidents in Glasgow city centre today involving individuals engaging in disorder and violence across the city” But there were no specific comments concerning pyrotechnics.**

Having considered your request in terms of the Act, I am refusing to confirm or deny whether the information sought exists or is held by Police Scotland in terms of section 18.

Section 18 applies where the following two conditions are met:

* It would be contrary to the public interest to reveal whether the information is held.

Whilst we accept that there is a public interest in better informing the public as to the use of pyrotechnics and the associated police response, the overwhelming public interest lies in protecting the integrity of ongoing investigations.

* If the information was held, it would be exempt from disclosure in terms of at least one exemption set out in the Act. In this instance, the following exemptions apply:

**Section 34(1)(b) - Investigations**
Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice substantially the prevention or detection of crime and/ or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

**Section 35(1)(a)&(b) – Law Enforcement**
Information is exempt information if it has at any time been held by a Scottish public authority for the purposes of an investigation, conducted by the authority, which in the circumstances may lead to a decision by the authority to make a report to the procurator fiscal to enable it to be determined whether criminal proceedings should be instituted.

I would suggest that public accountability would favour disclosure, given that the information concerns the efficient and effective use of resources by the Service, there can be no parallel interest in disclosing information held for the purposes of police investigations and any proceedings that may result from those investigations.

You may wish to pose this question again in a few months once investigations are more likely to have been concluded.

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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/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.