| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-2542  Responded to: 30 October 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act (FOISA), please could you share the island impact assessment with us so that we are able to understand Police Scotland views of the impact to introduce an occupancy charge for police officers who live in police housing on the Scottish Islands.

In terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I must advise that at this time, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought.

Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

(a) states that it holds the information,

(b) states that it is claiming an exemption,

(c) specifies the exemption in question and

(d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at:

**Section 30(b) Prejudice to Effective Conduct of Public Affairs**

The exemptions in section 30(b) focus on the effect that disclosure of information would have (or would be likely to have) on the free and frank provision of advice or the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation.

To advise, this document is incomplete and has still to be considered and ratified by Police Scotland.

This is a non-absolute exemption which requires the application of the Public Interest Test.

Public Interest Test

It could be argued that there is a public interest in disclosure of such information as it would contribute to greater transparency and openness.

That said, disclosure would harm the efficiency and effectiveness of the Service and our ability to properly review our processes would be harmed by the release of such information. If individuals were unwilling to contribute to such deliberations, any efforts to achieve honest opinions and good practices would be hindered. The service must ensure that all information is accurate and draft documents cannot be disclosed prior to all related matters being finalised. As such the balance of the public interest test favours retention of the information

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.