| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1149  Responded to: 09 August 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Can I have the pre-match information document for the following  fixtures for season 2023/2024:

## PSV Eindhoven v Rangers

## Servette v Rangers

## Sparta Prague v Rangers

## Limassol v Rangers

## Real Betis Balompie v Rangers

## Benfica v Rangers

**Can I also have the pre-match information document for the above fixtures and the match category for the above fixtures? Can I also have a written explanation for the categorisation for the above?**

I have provided separately to this response copies of the documents requested.

As you will note some information has been redacted and is considered to be exempt in terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (the Act). Section 16 of the Act requires Police Scotland 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.

Where information is considered to be exempt, this letter serves as a Refusal Notice that information is held and an explanation of the appropriate exemption is provided below:

**Section 30 (c) - Prejudice to the Effective Conduct of Public Affairs**

Information is exempt information if its disclosure under the Act would otherwise prejudice substantially, or be likely to prejudice substantially, the effective conduct of public affairs.

In this instance the telephone number and e-mail address cannot be disclosed. To release these details publicly through FOI legislation could negatively impact on the operational effectiveness of the service and partner agencies. The phone numbers and email addresses are used for operational/business purposes and this information has been removed in order to ensure that internal processes are protected.

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

**Section 35 (1) (a) & (b) – Law Enforcement**

The information requested is exempt, as its disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice substantially the prevention or detection of crime and apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

Release of the redacted information would adversely impact on the operational effectiveness of the Service. Being aware of details and planned actions would allow persons or groups intent on committing offences or causing disorder with the means to make a reasonable assessment of future football matches and other similar events. This in turn would allow those individuals or groups to make an accurate assessment of the capacity of the Service to deal with incidents at specific matches, compromising any tactical advantage the police may have over such persons or groups when dealing with any crime or disorder.

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

**Section 38 (1) (b) – Personal Information**

Information which would identify staff (name of individual) whose details are not in the

public domain cannot be disclosed. The release of this information to a third party would breach the requirement that exists in relation to processing personal information.

This is an absolute exemption and does not require application of the Public Interest Test.

**Public Interest Test**

Two of the exemptions detailed above are non-absolute and require the application of the public interest test.

It is accepted that there is a public interest in the disclosure of the information on the basis that it could lead to greater transparency and public debate.

The withheld material contains information relating to how events/ future events are policed, ultimately revealing specific operational strategies. Any such release would either compromise or significantly weaken police tactics and would also undermine any on-going investigations and potentially any future investigations, enabling targeted individuals or groups to become aware of such strategies and find ways to circumvent them.

Taking the above into consideration, I believe the public interest in withholding the redacted material outweighs that for disclosure.

## Can I also have the following information:

## Police Scotland policing costs for the following fixtures in Season 2023/2024?

## Rangers v Celtic 3rd September 2023

## Rangers v Real Betis Balompie 21st September 2023

## Rangers v Sparta Prague 9th November 2023

## Rangers v Benfica 14th March 2024

I have provided costs as requested above.

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| **Game** | **Cost** |
| Rangers v Celtic 3rd September 2023 | £21,290.00 |
| Rangers v Real Betis Balompie 21st September 2023 | £25,930.00 |
| Rangers v Sparta Prague 9th November 2023 | £28,638.00 |
| Rangers v Benfica 14th March 2024 | £43,136.00 |

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.