| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-2494Responded to: 18 October 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

I am researching police officers who served with Strathclyde Police and their previous legacy forces in Lanarkshire. The records for these officers are held at The Mitchell Library in Glasgow. Access is allowed to records where the officers are deceased or a period of 75 years has elapsed from the date the record was created.
Recently I have had difficulty obtaining specific records of some officers as staff at The Mitchell Library state the records are not in their possession nor on the list supplied by the legacy Strathclyde Police.
My question is, are these files (for 2 named officers) still in the possession of Police Scotland ad if so, can a copy of the contents be made available?
In terms of section 18 of the Act, I am refusing to confirm or deny whether the information sought is held by Police Scotland. The public interest overwhelmingly lies in protecting individuals’ right to privacy and honouring their expectation of confidentiality - even in death.

In this instance, section 39(1) of the Act would apply insofar as you have requested third party personal data, the *public* disclosure of which is assessed to be an unwarranted breach of privacy of the deceased and consequently potentially distressing to their loved ones.
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.