| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1623  Responded to: 15 July 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

The first four questions here were answered in our previous response sent to you on 12th May 2023 - FOI 23-1017 refers.

They are duplicated here to be of assistance;

## All details of the road safety initiative announced in newspaper article dated October 2016 relative to road safety for lorry drivers during conditions of high winds.

## Particulars of any advice given to road hauliers following the above initiative

## Particulars of advice and information to be given to lorry drivers following the above initiative.

In relation to the first three questions of your request I can confirm a search was conducted and no relevant information was found. I can only assume it has been deleted in line with our Records Retention Standard Operation Procedure for which I have included a link below.

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.

[Records Retention - Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/nhobty5i/record-retention-sop.pdf)

It should be noted that I have interpreted “following the above initiative” as being in relation to the mentioned initiative and not more generally as any time following this initiative.

Using the other definition would in essence be any advice or information in regard to this matter from October 2016 onwards and would almost certainly have led to an excessive cost exemption being applied.

## Without prejudice to 2 and 3 hereof, all advice and information relative to the use of weather alerts during conditions of high winds

In regard to question 4 of your request, since the media release mentioned there has been a change in the way advice is given to the public which has negated the need to liaise directly with the Road Haulage Association. The current process is summarised below and has been in place since 2017/2018.

The aim of the Met Office weather warnings is to inform the public and emergency services of the potential impacts of severe or hazardous weather. They are colour coded YELLOW, AMBER or RED depending on a combination of both the impact the weather may have and the likelihood of those impacts occurring.

Warnings can be issued up to seven days in advance, providing information on the type of weather, which includes, rain, wind, snow, fog, ice, thunderstorms and lightning. They include locations likely to be affected and potential impacts.

Police Scotland Emergency, Event and Resilience Planning (EERP) department and C3 Divisional Coordination Unit receive direct weather warnings from the Met Office as well as Flood Alerts and Warnings direct from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA). Both these departments therefore play pivotal roles in ensuring our preparedness for anticipated severe weather, the communication of this to internal departments, assisting with responses to the impacts of such weather events and vital liaison with partner agencies to ensure we are keeping our communities safe.

Road Policing also receive Met Office warnings. This is key in the consideration/planning for Police Travel Advice notifications and any relevant liaison with Transport Scotland. Transport Scotland thereafter update all variable message signs (VMS) across the trunk road network with the appropriate messages to warn road users of the perceived hazard.

In 2023 a change was made whereby Police Travel Advice would in general not be issued for YELLOW weather warnings to avoid over-messaging and instead will only be issued for AMBER and RED warnings where the threat is far greater. Police Travel Advice notices for Met Office YELLOW weather warnings can still be issued but only in exceptional circumstances and when specific combinations of weather events may occur.

In regard to the specific advice issued, please be advised that the requested information is publicly available.

As such, in terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, 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 that you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at Section 25(1) of the Act - information otherwise accessible:

“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under Section 1(1) is exempt information”

I can confirm that the information requested is available through our website and social media channels. I have attached a direct link to some examples but they are readily available by use of search engines.

[Police Scotland advice. Met Office has issued an Amber weather warning for high winds across most of Scotland. - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/news/2022/february/police-scotland-advice-following-weather-warnings/)

[Police Scotland is warning of travel restrictions after Red Weather Warnings were declared by the Met Office. - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/news/2021/november/red-weather-warnings-in-place-for-north-and-east-of-scotland/)

[Weather warning across Scotland - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/news/2023/february/weather-warning-across-scotland/)

## All correspondence held by Superintendent Fraser Candlish or his successor (unknown to the applicant) relating to the above initiative emanating from and to the Road Haulage Association,  the Freight Transport Standards Association and Police Scotland.

I note that question 5 has been refined since your previous request 23-1017.

On that basis, further checks have been undertaken in order to assess whether it is possible to access the correspondence of any Superintendent in a senior Roads Policing role since Fraser Candlish’s retirement.

Unfortunately I can confirm that this search has also resulted in a negative result as those officers are now also retired and as before, there is simply no means of checking every potential notebook, file, correspondence etc. within the cost limits of the Act.

Therefore 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.

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.