| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2060  Responded to: 11 September 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Under the Freedom of Information Act, I request information regarding the number of seconded staff or intelligence officers from other UK Law enforcement agencies currently working at Police Scotland's Specialist Crime Division.

## If possible I would also like the specific division or unit in which they are stationed.

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.

* Section 35(1)(a)&(b) - Law Enforcement
* Section 39(1) - Health, safety and the environment

Disclosure would prejudice substantially the prevention or detection of crime and apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

It would also endanger the physical health and the safety of individuals.

If the number of seconded staff or intelligence officers from other UK Law Enforcement agencies working within our Specialist Crime Division was released, it would provide an insight into the resources available to Police Scotland in this regard.

Experience has shown that releasing these details would allow those intent on committing crime or causing disorder to gauge the likelihood of detection or to take measures to negate the likelihood of detection.

It would allow criminals to plan how best to engage or occupy existing police resources in an effort to maximise their chances of committing serious crime, therefore harming the efficient and effective conduct of the service.

As a consequence, disclosure would also increase the risk of harm to officers and members of the public. This will be particularly relevant in specialist areas of policing.

The exemptions listed above require the application of the Public Interest Test.

Public accountability would favour disclosure, given that the information concerns the efficient and effective use of resources. Likewise, disclosure would also inform the public debate on the issue of policing and contribute to the accuracy of that debate.

However, the applicability of the exemptions listed above, the need to ensure the effective conduct of the police in relation to prevention and detection of crime and the public safety considerations involved in the delivery of operational policing clearly favour non-disclosure of the information requested.

On balance I would contend that the public interest in disclosing the information is outweighed by that in maintaining the exemptions listed, as, it is doubtful if it can ever be in the public interest to disclose information which would prejudice the prevention or detection of crime or, which would jeopardise the delivery of operational policing and the safety of officers and police staff.

By way of assistance, Police Officer numbers are available online:

[Police Scotland Officer Numbers - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/police-scotland-officer-numbers/)

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.