| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-3159  Responded to: 8 January 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## As Police Scotland are part of the Safety Advisory Group It has been widely reported that the Glasgow City Council/Safety Advisory Group has required Celtic FC to provide a report after every home match due to concerns of safety and supporter behaviour.

## I require Police Scotland to provide copies of these reports from the 2022-2023 seasons matches and for the current seasons matches. Also provide minutes of the meetings Police Scotland attended the Safety Advisory Group for the same period.

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:

* states that it holds the information,
* states that it is claiming an exemption,
* specifies the exemption in question and
* 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 as follows:

**Section 30(b) – free and frank provision of advice or exchange of views**

Information is exempt under sections 30(b) if disclosure would, or would be likely to, inhibit substantially:

(i) the free and frank provision of advice (section 30(b) (i)) or

(ii) the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation (section 30(b) (ii)).

Information is exempt under section 30(b) if disclosure would, or would be likely to, inhibit substantially the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation.

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. The sharing of this content would likely have a negative impact on the effective conduct of public affairs

This is a non-absolute exemption and 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, this must be tempered against what is of interest to the public and what is in the public interest. The Act does not define the public interest, however, it has been described as “something which is of serious concern and benefit to the public”, not merely something of individual interest. It has also been described as “something that is “in the interest of the public”, not merely “of interest to the public.” In other words, it serves the interests of the public.

A decision for non-disclosure follows consideration of the harm that could be caused by release of such information. If individuals were unwilling to contribute to such deliberations or put forward proposals in the future fearing their initial views were publicly attributable, or in case any non-factual information was disclosed prior to matters being finalised, any efforts to achieve honest opinions, would be hindered and as such the balance of the public interest test favours retention of the information.

**Section 39(1) – Health, safety and the environment**

Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, endanger the physical or mental health or the safety of an individual.

Whilst I appreciate the reasons why you might wish this information, I also have to consider the wider implications of the public release of such information as a release of information under this Act is, essentially, a release of sensitive information into the public domain.

This is a non-absolute exemption and requires the application of the public interest test.

## Public Interest Test

Section 39(1) of the 2002 Act states that information is exempt from release if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, endanger the physical or mental health or the safety of an individual.

In relation to information relating to a sports ground, which is open to members of the public, disclosing information into the public domain which contains security and safety arrangements could allow this information to be utilised in the preparation of a malicious act.  This in turn could endanger the safety of individuals.

Accordingly, I would consider that the risk of information being used for malicious purposes that could endanger persons outweighs the public interest in the release of this 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.