| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2835  Responded to: 24th November 2023 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## In July 2023 officers in the Metropolitan Police were banned by their Commissioner from wearing Thin Blue Line badges on their uniform. These badges are to show respect and remember their fallen colleagues. They are sold by the Care Of Police Survivors (COPS) charity and help to raise funds for their great cause.

## The decision by the Met Police Commissioner has caused great upset to his officers at a time when their morale is already very low.

## Please can you advise what is your Police Scotland’s policy in relation to your officers wearing Thin Blue Line badges?

There is nothing to prevent this, as outlined in our [Uniform and Appearance Standards SOP](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/fsjpeu0n/uniform-appearance-standards-sop.pdf). The section most relevant is 11.4.5 which states:

“There may be occasions where it is considered appropriate to wear lapel pins or similar, (for example, during the Annual Poppy Appeal or when policing large events such as the Commonwealth Games, Gay Pride parades, etc.). Small Diversity Staff Association (DSA) badges can be worn routinely. Health and safety considerations should be taken into account and your supervisor is responsible for determining what is appropriate in such circumstances.”

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.