| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1166  Responded to: 15 April 2024 |
| --- | --- |

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

**Under the Freedom of Information Act, please provide**

**1. The number of incidents recorded by the force between October 7, 2023 and the date of this request under Operation Bridger, the nationwide initiative relating to the safety of election candidates and representatives.**

**a) Please provide a brief categorisation of the incident (alleged harassment, criminal damage, assault etc).**

**b) The outcome of the report to Operation Bridger e.g. advice given, recorded as a crime, suspect arrested etc.**

**[If all of the above data cannot be provided for one reason or another, then consider providing: number of crimes recorded under Operation Bridger / number of alleged crimes recorded under Operation Bridger]**

**2. The number of incidents recorded by the force in each of the separate years 2024, 2023, 2022 and 2021 under Operation Bridger.**

**a) Please provide a brief categorisation of the incident (alleged harassment, criminal damage, assault etc).**

**b) The outcome of the report to Operation Bridger e.g. advice given, recorded as a crime, suspect arrested etc.**

**[If all of the above data cannot be provided for one reason or another, then consider providing: number of crimes recorded under Operation Bridger / number of alleged crimes recorded under Operation Bridger]**

**3. Confirm if your force has a designated Operation Bridger lead/contact point for elected representatives/candidates**

'Operation Bridger’ is UK Policing’s contribution to MPs’ security when they are away from the Parliamentary Estate.'

I am refusing to confirm or deny whether the information sought exists or is held by Police Scotland in terms of section 18 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (the Act).

Section 18 applies where the following two conditions are met: -

It would be contrary to the public interest to reveal whether the information is held

- If the information was held, it would be exempt from disclosure in terms of one or more of the exemptions set out in sections 28 to 35, 38, 39(1) or 41 of the Act.

In accordance with the conditions above, Police Scotland can neither confirm nor deny that it holds the information you have requested.

If held, the following exemptions would be considered relevant:

Section 38(1)(b) and 38(1)(2A) of the Act may apply insofar as you have requested third party personal data which is exempt from disclosure where it is assessed that disclosure would contravene the data protection principles as defined in the Act.

Section 35(1)(a)&(b) - Law Enforcement

Section 39(1) - Health and Safety

Section 34 – Investigations

## This explanation should not be taken as indicative or conclusive evidence that the information you have requested exists or does not exist.

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.