| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1782  Responded to: 27 August 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I am writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 for information related to the police contract with Orbis Protect Ltd to board up crime scenes and the involvement of the company Style Builders as a subcontractor.

## Specifically, I would like to request the following information:

## 1. Copies of all documents, communications, and records related to the vetting and approval process for Orbis Protect Ltd and Style Builders as a subcontractor, including:

## a. Any checks or due diligence conducted on the directors, owners, and key personnel of these companies.

## b. Any assessments or evaluations of the suitability of Orbis Protect Ltd and Style Builders to work on police contracts, particularly those involving sensitive crime scenes and investigations.

## c. Any internal discussions, memos, or reports regarding the decision to approve Orbis Protect Ltd and Style Builders as contractor and subcontractor, respectively.

## 3. Copies of any notifications or communications received from Orbis Protect Ltd regarding changes to their subcontractors, including:

## a. The initial notification of Style Builders being appointed as a subcontractor.

## b. The subsequent notification of Style Builders being removed as a subcontractor.

## c. Any explanations or justifications provided by Orbis Protect Ltd for the changes to their subcontractors.

Section 16 of the Act requires Police Scotland 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.

Where information is considered to be exempt, this letter serves as a Refusal Notice that information is held and an explanation of the appropriate exemption is provided.

**Section 38(1) (b) Personal Information**

Personal data is defined in Article 4 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as:

*‘Information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person (“data subject”); an identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person’*

Section 38(2A) of the Act provides that personal data is exempt from disclosure where disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles set out at Article 5(1) of the GDPR which states that:

*‘Personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject’*

Article 6 of the GDPR goes on to state that processing shall be lawful only if certain conditions are met. The only potentially applicable condition is set out at Article 6(1) (f) which states:

*‘Processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by the controller or by a third party, except where such interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject which require protection of personal data*

The information requested is exempt from disclosure as it contains personal data relating to individuals. Whilst I accept that you may have a legitimate interest with regards the disclosure of this information and that disclosure may well be necessary for that purpose, I am nonetheless of the view that those interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject(s).

This is an absolute exemption and does not require the application of the public interest test.

To be of assistance, I have attached our supplier vetting, management of guidance which provides information in relation to our process of vetting subcontractors.

## 2. Details of the exact scope, value, and duration of the police contract with Orbis Protect Ltd, including:

## a. The specific services to be provided under the contract, such as boarding up private premises, securing crime scenes, etc.

I have attached separately the Invitation to tender document which provides this information.

## b. The total contract value and the annual or periodic breakdown of the contract value.

The average annual contract value for Police Scotland has been £185,000.

## c. The start and end dates of the contract, as well as any extensions or renewals.

Start date 1 August 2019 - 31 July 2022. There is a 24 month extension option which gives final end date 31 July 2024.

## 4. Information on the specific procedures, policies, and guidelines in place for the vetting and approval of subcontractors working on police contracts, particularly those involving sensitive crime scenes and investigations, including:

## a. The criteria and requirements used to assess the suitability of subcontractors.

## b. The frequency and scope of any ongoing monitoring or audits of subcontractors.

## c. Any escalation or reporting mechanisms in place for concerns about subcontractors.

The attached document Supplier Vetting - manual of guidance will provide you with this information.

## 5. Details of any internal reviews, investigations, or changes to policies and procedures that were undertaken by Police Scotland following the revelations about George 'Rambo' McMillan's involvement with Style Builders and the police contract, including:

## a. The findings and recommendations of any such reviews or investigations.

## b. Any actions taken or planned to address the identified issues or vulnerabilities.

## c. Any updates or revisions made to the vetting, approval, and monitoring processes for police contractors and subcontractors.

## 6. Copies of any risk assessments, audits, or reports conducted by Police Scotland regarding the oversight and management of the Orbis Protect Ltd contract and its subcontractors, including:

## a. Any evaluations of the potential risks or vulnerabilities associated with the involvement of subcontractors with criminal backgrounds.

## b. Any recommendations or action plans developed to mitigate the identified risks.

## c. Any follow-up assessments or monitoring of the implementation and effectiveness of the mitigation measures.

In relation to details of outcomes of cases I can advise you that Police Scotland does not hold the requested information. In terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that information is not held.

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.