| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 24-1756Responded to: 06 August 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

As you may be aware, Freedom of Information legislation provides a right of access to recorded information only.

In terms of our section 15 duty to advise and assist applicants however, we have reached out to our FOI management team, and they have provided answers to your questions, below.

**Why do you publish a disclosure log?**

As you will be aware, Disclosure Logs are not a requirement of the legislation, but they are considered best practice.

Police Scotland has operated a Disclosure Log for many years, as did several of the legacy Scottish Police Forces beforehand.

We see it as part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold.

**Does Police Scotland think that a disclosure log aids stakeholders to quickly and easily see questions which have already been asked and answered?**

In theory, yes it should - but that of course relies upon people searching the Disclosure Log before submitting a request.

We encourage this through our website - and we have recently improved the filtering and searching options available within the Disclosure Log to facilitate this.

**Does Police Scotland think that this reduces demand on resources, such as time?**

There has been no measurable impact on resources - either positive or negative.

Of course, we cannot measure the FOIs we do not receive - and it may be the case that people who were intending to submit an FOI, do not, because they find the information they are looking for on the Disclosure Log or website more generally.

In our experience, FOI requests received are often substantially similar to others - suggesting that the Disclosure Log is not being consulted by many applicants.

In terms of the resource of maintaining the log, whilst occasional improvement and development work can require a fair amount of consultation with our web team and ICT colleagues, uploading the responses themselves takes only a couple of minutes per case.

Overall, therefore, the resource is considered well spent.

The volume of FOI requests received by Police Scotland continues to grow each year:

[FOI and EIRs statistics | Scottish Information Commissioner](https://www.foi.scot/statistics)

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 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 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.