| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-2546  Responded to: xx November 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## We are making a request under the above Act for information relating to the Public Order Unit within Police Scotland.

## In particular, we require information on the following: -

## What are the roles and responsibilities of the Public Order Unit within Police Scotland?

## 2. In what circumstances is the Public Order Unit required?

Police Scotland do not have a Public Order Unit, as such, in response to this part of your request, and in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

To be of assistance, however, I can advise that we have an Operational Support Unit who deploy to a number of Public Order related incidents. We also have a Public Order Training Unit who co-ordinate the training for all Public Order Trained Officers in Police Scotland. These officers deploy to operations, events and spontaneous incidents where a Public Order response is required.

Police Scotland has a cadre of officers, stationed throughout the organisation, who are trained in public order and ready to respond to any situation

## What is the process for assessing and determining the need for the deployment of the Public Order Unit?

The process for assessing the need for the deployment of Public Order trained officers varies depending on the circumstances and whether that response is in relation to a spontaneous or pre planned event.

## What specific training and qualifications are required for officers to be part of the Public Order Unit?

For a Police Officer to be Public Order trained, they are required to attend a Public Order initial course and pass a role specific fitness test. To remain operationally deployable, they must attend 2 refresher courses throughout the year and pass a role specific fitness test.

## What types of equipment and resources are available to the Public Order Unit

## during deployments?

Again, there is no Public Order Unit as such. The equipment and resources available are vast and are very much dependant on the circumstances and nature of the incident or event.

A standard public order deployment will include protected personnel carriers, officers with full PPE and access to shields and helmets.

If we were to disclose further information in relation to equipment and resources it would severely prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders and would be exempt under Section 35(1)(a)&(b) - Law Enforcement

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.