| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0007  Responded to: 18th January 2023 |
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I refer to your recent correspondence, specifically questions 1, 2, 4 and 5, seeking access to your own personal data.

Your request is technically a Subject Access Request(SAR)and it will therefore be considered in terms of the Data Protection Act 2018/ GDPR as explained on our [website](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/data-protection/subject-access-requests).

Our Data Protection team will contact you separately in relation to your SAR.

Because you mentioned FOI in your request, we are required by law to provide this *additional* response in terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 specifically.

In terms of section 18 of that Act, I am therefore refusing to confirm or deny whether Police Scotland holds information about you.

The public interest overwhelmingly lies in protecting your right to privacy and an individual’s own personal information is exempt from disclosure in terms of the exemption at section 38(1)(a).

I understand that the statement above may seem confusing and/ or unhelpful in the circumstances but I would stress once again that this is the response to your FOI request only - a SAR will be progressed separately.

Please note that in respect of Question 4 of your request, Sections 38(1)(b) and 38(1)(2A) also 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.

## 3. All documents that pertain to Police Scotland guidelines in relation to the use of force, during arrests and in particular the use of handcuffs in force on 12/01/2022.

Please be advised that Police Scotland’s Use of Force National Guidance is publicly available.

As such, in terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought. Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, 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.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at Section 25(1) of the Act - information otherwise accessible:

“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under Section 1(1) is exempt information”

The information you are seeking is available on the Police Scotland website, via the following link:

[Use of Force National Guidance](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/20dfjby2/use-of-force-national-guidance-publication-scheme-version.docx)

Please note that there is no guidance document in relation to handcuffs specifically.

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.