| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-2429  Responded to: 10 October 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**It has been brought to my attention during use of certain social media sites that Police Scotland have been impersonating profiles of young teenage girls to engage online in a indecent manner with adults, this can subsequently lead to an arrest and charge.**

**My request is to find the correct legal compliance and consent required and given from the social media apps and Equality ACT 2010 that allows Police Scotland to carry out this type of high risk work.**

**Also I would like to request the risk assessment for the work as it is high risk and could jeopardise the safety of young girls who could look similar to the decoys being used on the apps.**

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 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

The following exemption is considered relevant:

**Section 35 (1) (a) & (b) – Law Enforcement**

In this instance, if the information was held, 35 (1) (a) & (b) of the Act would apply insofar as you have requested informationwhich is exempt from disclosure where it is assessed that disclosure would disclose tactics used by the Police Force.

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