| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-0064  Responded to: 26 January 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## This is an FoI about Police Scotland’s policy (if there is one) on planning issues.

## Our neighbour has lodged a planning application. It cites as the reason for this application “The work was carried out on the advice from Police Scotland”. At no time have any officers approached us about the privacy issue. I would like to know:

## What the local policy is on these matters?

In terms of section 17 of the Act, this represents a notice that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland. Police Scotland has no policy or guidance etc that relates to local authority planning issues.

## Are there any reports/ complaints concerning members of my family in the last 4 years?

Having considered this part of your request in terms of the Act, I am refusing to confirm or deny whether the information sought exists or is held by Police Scotland in terms of section 18.

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.  
  Whilst we accept that you may have a particular personal interest in being informed as to whether the information sought is held, the overwhelming public interest lies in protecting individuals’ right to privacy and their expectation of confidence as regards their information.
* 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.  
  In this instance, sections 38(1)(b) and 38(1)(2A) of the Act 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.

If you have reported any incidents yourself, you may wish to consider making a Subject Access Request - [Subject Access Requests - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/data-protection/subject-access-requests)

## Why have we not been approached by Police Scotland?

## If this is not a policy, why is our neighbour placing this on a public planning portal, as I would expect there to be some record of this?

As you may be aware, the Act provides a right of access to recorded information only.  Requests seeking comment or opinion or the creation of a Police Scotland statement in relation to something are not therefore valid in terms of section 8 of the Act.

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.