| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-0051Responded to: 04 February 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Confirmation of whether or not the custody suite in Greenock Police Station is still out of use.

## Confirmation of whether or not Police Scotland has an estimated date for when the custody suite will reopen. If so please provide the estimated date.

In response to the two questions above, I can advise that Greenock custody facility is now open.

## A copy of the correspondence which was used communicate to officers and staff at Greenock Police Station that the custody suite would have to close.

Please see the attached document titled FOI 25-0051 applicant data 01- redacted.

Please note that within the document some details have been redacted. As such, with the respect to the redacted information, the information sought is held by Police Scotland, but I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the following exemptions apply:

Section 30 (c) Prejudice to the Effective Conduct of Public Affairs.

Where necessary some internal names / telephone numbers and email addresses have been redacted. To release these details publicly through FOI legislation could negatively impact on the operational effectiveness of various departments and external partner agencies. While it is acknowledged that the disclosure of this information would support transparency and better inform the public as to how Police Scotland conducts its business, there are already established routes for the public to make contact with the police and the disclosure of these additional details would not support the effective conduct of public affairs. As a result, section 30(c) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 is engaged.

## Section 38(1)(b) Personal Data

The information sought is held by Police Scotland, but I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the exemption set out at section 38(1)(b) of the Act applies - personal data.

Personal data is defined in Article 4 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as:

‘Information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person (“data subject”); an identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person’.

Section 38(2A) of the Act provides that personal data is exempt from disclosure where disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles set out at Article 5(1) of the GDPR which states that:

‘Personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject’.

Article 6 of the GDPR goes on to state that processing shall be lawful only if certain conditions are met. The only potentially applicable condition is Article 6(1)(f) which states:

‘Processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by the controller or by a third party, except where such interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject which require protection of personal data, in particular where the data subject is a child’.

Whilst I accept that you may have a legitimate interest with regards the disclosure of this information, I do not agree that disclosure could be considered necessary in the circumstances.

Notwithstanding, I am further of the view that your interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subjects.

On that basis, it is considered that disclosure of the information sought would be unlawful.

## The total cost of any money that has been spent on the custody suite since it has been closed, specifically to enable it to reopen.

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

By way of explanation, to explain, we are generally unable to provide the true cost of any policing decision. The nature of policing means that officers are deployed to wherever their services are most required. Officers can also be redeployed to other duties or locations, at any time, dependant on their skillsets.

## A clear reason why the custody suite was closed on 11th December.

## As noted within the attached document, the reason for the closure was significant, unforeseen resourcing challenges.

## A copy of any correspondence sent to other Police Stations to communicate that people that would usually be arrested and placed in Greenock Police Station will have to be transferred to alternative stations.

The attached documents were sent division wide and to local policing partners.

To be of assistance, I can advise that the communications provided were also followed up with in-person briefings to the custody co-ordinator.

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](https://www.foi.scot/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.