| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-0254  Responded to: 24 January 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## (1) If a friend asked me to attend a police station with them to observe them giving a Witness Statement could I be asked to sign their Witness Statement to record my presence in the room?

## (2) If my friend had a disability eg. dyslexia and refused to sign the Witness Statement (because they needed more time) what would be the procedure?  Would they be given more time to read it over or could they go away and sign it at a later date? If so, how, when and where would they sign it?

## (3) Is there any point in a police constable gaining my signature on my friend's Witness Statement when she hasn't provided her signature?

## (4) Are there any penalties for signing someone else's Witness Statement?

As you may be aware, the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 provides a right of access to recorded information only.  Section 8 of the Act states that in order for a request to be valid, an applicant must describe the information requested - which is not the same as asking for answers to hypothetical questions or for statements regarding particular scenarios.

We are unable to offer any comment therefore as regards the matters set out above.

In terms of any pre-existing recorded information that relates to the questions posed, such information is not held, and section 17 of the Act therefore applies

To be of assistance, I can confirm that guidance regarding witness statements is available online in section 6 and appendix M of the Police Scotland Case Reporting SOP:

[Case Reporting SOP](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/s5mj2mwo/case-reporting-sop.pdf)

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.