



Freedom of Information Response

Our reference: FOI 24-0120

Responded to: 7 March 2024

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

Whether Police Scotland have received any reports alleging a contempt of court offence against an individual or news organisation in relation to reporting or discussing publicly Operation Branchform. Please provide the date and number of any reports that have been submitted since 1 June 2021 and whether Police Scotland is aware if the individual reporting the offence was an employee of the Scottish Government or the Scottish National Party.

Police Scotland received 2 reports, in October 2023, in which persons made a complaint alleging 'Contempt of Court'. Both complaints related to a comment made by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak during his conference speech in October 2023.

On 5 October 2023 when asked about these complaints, Police Scotland issued the following statement:

"We have received a complaint and, following consultation with the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, no police action is being taken at this time."

In terms of the the employment status of the reporters I can advise that Police Scotland does not hold the requested information information. In terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that information is not held.

By way of explanation, the employee status of the 2 individuals has not been recorded in relation to their complaints.

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, Dalarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

OFFICIAL

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](#), 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](#) 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.