| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 24-0344Responded to: 06 March 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Under the Freedom of Information Scotland Act, I am interested to know if it was a Police Car that was used to take Nicola Sturgeon to the Covid Enquiry in Edinburgh this morning.   If so, why was this and also what was the cost involved and who paid for it.**

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

Whilst we accept that there is a public interest in better informing the public as to the security arrangements in place for public figures, particularly where public costs are involved, it cannot be in the public interest to reveal whether any individual is subject to police protective measures.

* 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.

If held the following exemptions would be considered relevant:

Section 31(1) – National Security

Section 35(1)(a) & (b) - Law Enforcement

Section 38(1)(b) – Personal Information

Section 39(1) - Health and Safety

Disclosure would undermine the integrity of the police protective measures process and ultimately therefore put protected individuals and police officers at increased risk of criminality and harm.

Where individuals are high profile/ political figures, there are also national security considerations in terms of disclosing information which would be of intelligence value to criminals and terrorists.

Whilst we accept that there is a public interest in better informing the public as to the security arrangements in place for public figures, particularly where public costs are involved, it cannot be in the public interest to reveal whether any individual is subject to police protective measures.

Furthermore, the information sought, if held, is the personal information of the individual named.

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 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 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.