| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-0955  Responded to: 11 April 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I am requesting information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 regarding the policing operation on London Road, Glasgow, outside the Celtic Supporters Association on 16th March 2025. Specifically, I would like to request the following:**

**1. Total Cost**

* **The overall cost of the operation, including officer pay, overtime, equipment, and vehicle usage.**

The overall cost of the operation has yet to be job coded. As Freedom of Information legislation extends to recorded information only, we are unable to provide estimates, meaning the information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

**2. Resources Deployed**

* **The total number of police officers involved in the operation.**
* **The number of police vehicles used (including vans, cars, and any mounted units).**

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:

Sections 35(1)(a) and b) Law Enforcement and Section 39(1) Health, Safety and the Environment.

## Section 35(1)(a) and (b) Law Enforcement

Disclosure would prejudice substantially the prevention or detection of crime and apprehension or prosecution of offenders. Release of specific levels of policing would adversely impact on the operational effectiveness of Police Scotland.

Being aware of deployment details would allow persons or groups intent on committing offences or causing disorder with the means to make a reasonable assessment of future football matches. This in turn would allow those individuals or groups to make an accurate assessment of the capacity of the Service to deal with incidents at specific matches, compromising any tactical advantage the police may have over such persons or groups when dealing with any crime or disorder.

This is a non-absolute exemption and requires the application of the Public Interest Test.

**Section 39(1) Health, Safety and the Environment**

Disclosure would endanger the physical health or safety of an individual by allowing those intent on committing crime or causing disorder to gauge the likelihood of detection or to take measures to negate the likelihood of detection. This would leave members of the public at an increased risk of being the victim of crime or unruly or intimidating behaviour and jeopardise wider community safety.

This is a non-absolute exemption and requires the application of the Public Interest Test.

## Public Interest Test

Disclosure would lead to a better-informed public, improving their knowledge and understanding of how Police Scotland provides a key role in protecting the public at football matches. This would increase public debate and encourage accountability regarding the delivery of this area of core policing.

In general terms, release of information relating to how existing or future fixtures are policed, would ultimately reveal specific operational strategies. Any such release would either compromise or significantly weaken police tactics and would also undermine any ongoing investigations and potentially any future investigations, enabling targeted individuals or groups to become aware of such strategies and find ways to circumvent them.

Furthermore, this would reveal the thought processes and techniques employed by Police Scotland and would in turn help subjects avoid detection and inhibit the prevention and detection of crime.

It is reasonable to expect Police Scotland to ensure that all information held is managed effectively and where necessary, be cautious as to the level of detail released into the public domain.

Given the need for police to provide an effective, proportionate and professional response to policing such events, I would argue that the need to ensure the efficient and effective conduct of the service in a key law enforcement role favours non-disclosure of the information requested.

**3. Officer Pay & Deployment**

* **How many officers were paid overtime to take part in this operation?**

The information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

By way of explanation, no Police Officers were paid overtime to work this fixture.

* **How many officers were pulled from other areas/divisions to be involved in this operation?**

This fixture was deemed a national event, therefore officers from West/ East and national divisions were utilised.

* **A list of the divisions/units that provided officers for this operation.**

In line with our resourcing models officers from Forth Valley Division, Edinburgh City Division, The Lothian and Scottish Borders Division, Tayside Division, Fife Division, Greater Glasgow Division, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Division, Lanarkshire Division, Argyll and West Dunbartonshire Division, Dumfries and Galloway Division, Ayrshire Division, Corporate Services Division, Contact, Command and Control Division, Criminal Justice Services Division, Specialist Crime Division, Operational Support Division, Policing Together Division.

**4. Decision-Making Process**

* **Was the football club (Celtic FC) consulted or involved in the decision to contain the fans?**

This was an internal Police Scotland operational decision.

* **What other organizations were involved in planning this operation? (e.g., Glasgow City Council, football authorities, etc.)**

Glasgow City Council, Celtic FC, Rangers FC, Scottish Ambulance Service, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and British Transport Police were invited to some planning meetings regarding this event.

**5. Impact on Policing Elsewhere**

* **Were any routine policing duties reduced or deprioritized as a result of this operation?**

This event was deemed a National Event; therefore, officers were used from multiple divisions to minimise the impact on business as usual. Routine Policing duties were not reduced or deprioritised as a result of this operation.

* **Were any specific crime areas left without normal coverage due to officers being redeployed?**

Most officers were subject to a cancellation of rest day, therefore business as usual was left without disruption.

**6. Justification for the Operation**

* **What was the official reasoning for the containment of fans at this location?**
* **Was there an official risk assessment conducted before the decision was made? If so, can you provide details?**

The information sought is held by Police Scotland, but I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act. I would refer you to the reasoning articulated in our response to question 2 above.

* **Did intelligence or prior incidents contribute to the decision to deploy such a large police presence?**

Police Scotland considers all available information to appropriately resource and police events.

**7. Use of Force & Public Order Measures**

* **Were any public order tactics (e.g., kettling, dispersal orders) officially authorized for this operation?**

Public Order was authorised for this operation on Tuesday 10th December 2025 by the ACC. Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 was authorised by the ACC on Tuesday 11th March.

* **Were any arrests or dispersal orders issued as part of the operation?**

1 x arrest for Police Assault.

1 x male reported for possession of pyrotechnic device

No dispersal orders were used.

* **Were there any complaints made by the public about police conduct during this operation?**

One complaint has been received.

**8. Cost Reimbursement & External Funding**

* **Will any of the policing costs be reimbursed by an external party (e.g., the football club, local government, or the Scottish Government)?**

Celtic FC pay for police officers on the stadium footprint.

**• Did any organisation (e.g., Celtic FC, Glasgow City Council, etc) request or recommend this level of policing?**

Police resources are determined by the Event Gold and Silver Commanders.

**9. CCTV & Body-Worn Cameras**

* **Were body-worn cameras used by officers during the operation?**

Officers from divisions where body-worn cameras have been rolled out did utilise these.

* **Were any CCTV or drone surveillance resources used as part of the policing strategy?**

The Police Drone and Helicopter were deployed to this operation.

**10. Road Closure & Public Impact**

* **Was an official order issued to close London Road for this operation? If so, which authority approved it?**

London Road was closed using emergency powers for public safety**.**

* **What was the justification for closing a major road for several hours?**

Public safety.

* **Were any alternative routes or diversions put in place to minimize disruption?**

Road Policing Officers on the ground assisted with diversions and alternative routes.

* **Were businesses, residents, or local transport services (buses, taxis, emergency vehicles) consulted or informed about the closure in advance?**

Emergency Services and British Transport Police were within the Event Room for this Operation; therefore they were aware of any disruption and able to feed this out accordingly.

* **Were there any recorded public complaints about the road closure or police actions on the day?**

To date, there are no official complaints regarding this Policing Operation.

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](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) 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.