| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-0341  Responded to: 21 February 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Please can you clarify if Third Party Reporting, with evidence, but without a co operating complainer, or victim consent, provides the facility to report serious offences, including sexual assaults or rape?

## I previously submitted a general enquiry to Police Scotland regarding this and was advised to submit and FOI request for this information

In response to your request, and in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

To explain, we don't have policies or procedures that cover the exact scenario referred to above, however Police Scotland take all allegations of criminality seriously, and we would encourage anyone who wishes to report a serious offence to do so.

Sometimes victims or witnesses of hate crime don’t feel comfortable reporting an incident to the police and they might be more comfortable reporting it to someone they know.

Police Scotland works in partnership with a number of organisations and groups to take reports, known as third party reporting centres.

Third party reporting centres could be housing associations, victim support offices and voluntary groups. Staff have been trained to recognise hate crimes and help a victim or witness to submit a report to the police.

Third party reports can be made without giving a name. However, that might affect how much investigation we can do. ​

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.