| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 24-2951Responded to: xx December 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## All correspondence (including meeting minutes) between (named officer) Police Scotland) and NHS Tayside senior management including Board of Directors from 1/1/18 to present day 15/11/24.

In terms of section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the specific information requested.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds information (correspondence with NHS Tayside) which meets the criteria of your request, but that this information is considered to be exempt from public disclosure.

There are a number of exemptions that I consider to be applicable to the information requested by you and to redact all of the relevant sections would almost certainly render the documents meaningless.

Thes exemptions are:

Section 34(1)(b) – Investigations

This provides an absolute exemption from disclosure in that information is exempt information if it has at any time been held by Police Scotland for the purposes of an investigation which may lead to a decision to make a report to the Procurator Fiscal to enable it to be determined whether criminal proceedings should be instituted.

Section 35(1)(b) – Law Enforcement

Section 39(1) – Health, safety and the environment

In regard to Section 35(1)(a)(b) and 39(1), as per the above, release of this information would be likely to prejudice substantially the ability of the police to investigate and detect crime and would have a similar detrimental impact on the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

Section 30(b) – Free and frank provision of advice or exchange of views

Information is exempt under sections 30(b) if disclosure would, or would be likely to, inhibit substantially:

(i) the free and frank provision of advice or

(ii) the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation.

The exemptions in section 30(b) focus on the effect that disclosure of information would have (or would be likely to have) on the free and frank provision of advice or the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation. The sharing of this content would likely have a negative impact on the effective conduct of public affairs.

These are non-absolute exemptions and requires the application of the public interest test:

Public awareness would favour a disclosure as it would contribute to the public debate surrounding an investigation and the police handling of such an enquiry.

Nevertheless it cannot be in the public interest to release information that would prejudice law enforcement or which is likely to have an adverse impact upon public safety.

I appreciate that there is a public interest in relation to police investigations and other related matters. That said, it is essential that neither investigations nor the potential for proceedings to be brought against any individual are put at risk.

The following exemption is also applicable;

Section 38(1)(b) - Personal Data

Personal data is defined in Article 4 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as:

‘Information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person (“data subject”); an identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person’

I am of the view that the potential for an offender to be identified is significant, making any statistical information ‘personal data’.

Section 38(2A) of the Act provides that personal data is exempt from disclosure where disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles set out at Article 5(1) of the GDPR which states that:

‘Personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject’

Article 6 of the GDPR goes on to state that processing shall be lawful only if certain conditions are met.

The only potentially applicable condition is set out at Article 6(1)(f) which states:

‘Processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by the controller or by a third party, except where such interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject which require protection of personal data, in particular where the data subject is a child’

Whilst I accept that you may have a legitimate interest with regards the disclosure of this information and that disclosure may well be necessary for that purpose, I am nonetheless of the view that those interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject.

Taking all of the above into account, it is my view that disclosure of the information sought would be unlawful.

Accordingly, in this case it is assessed that the public interest lies firmly in refusing disclosure.

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.