| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-2156Responded to: 27 September 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1. How much money has Police Scotland spent on police protection for Nicola Sturgeon since March 28 2023, with a breakdown of these costs?

## 2. Could you supply a copy of the risk assessment undertaken to end this police protection?

## 4. Are Police Scotland investigating any accusations of contempt of court about Operation Branchform and have any complaints been made about this? If so, how many have been made to you?

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

- 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 34 – Investigations by a Scottish Public Authority

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

Section 38(1) (b) – Personal Information

Section 39(1) - Health and Safety

This explanation should not be taken as indicative or conclusive evidence that the information you have requested does or does not exist.

3. All correspondence between Police Scotland and the SNP regarding Operation Branchform sent between July 1 2023 and the date of this FOI.

In accordance with Sections 12(1) (Excessive cost of compliance) and 16(4) (Refusal of request) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (the Act), this letter represents a Refusal Notice.

By way of explanation, this request is too wide to collate data within the timescales prescribed under the Act.  If we only considered Police Scotland’s Executive team, then for each individual, we would require to search, at a minimum, the e-mail address in their name and one for their business area. We would have to consider everyone who was a member of the Executive within the time frame specified including those who have now resigned or retired.

In addition anyone who has worked on Operation Branchform would also have to be contacted and searches completed and, technically to consider your request in its widest form all police divisions would have to be contacted to establish if they have received any correspondence.

We have assessed that this would take a considerable amount of time and would be in excess of the £600 and 40 hours prescribed by the Scottish Ministers under the Act.

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.