| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-2470Responded to: 19 October 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## A copy of Police Scotland’s vetting policy and any criteria thresholds which would warrant placing a person at risk of inducement because of debt.

In terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought. Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

(a) states that it holds the information,

(b) states that it is claiming an exemption,

(c) specifies the exemption in question and

(d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at Section 25(1) of the Act - information otherwise accessible:

*“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under Section 1(1) is exempt information”*

This information can be found at public source.

By way of explanation, Police Scotland conduct vetting as per the Vetting Manual of Guidance which is publicly available - [scotland.police.uk/spa-media/g3xlghjn/vetting-manual-of-guidance-v-1-10-\_redacted.pdf](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/g3xlghjn/vetting-manual-of-guidance-v-1-10-_redacted.pdf).

The relevant sections relating to financial checks and assessment can be found at Sections 5.26 – 5.29.

## The number of serving police officers and civilian staff in Police Scotland who are subject to a DAS (debt arrangement scheme) and within those numbers, a breakdown of the levels to which they are vetted, rank and civilian pay grade.

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, to provide this information we would require to check in excess of 23,000 personnel records to ascertain (a) if any are subject of a DAS, (b) the level of vetting they hold and (c) their rank/civilian grade. We would require to check each record manually as there is no capability within the vetting system to search for this data. This would take around 5-10 minutes per record and would significantly exceed the cost limits prescribed by the Scottish Ministers in terms of the legislation.

## The number of non-police personnel who have been vetted by Police Scotland’s vetting unit to include the number of persons on a DAS and within those numbers, a breakdown of the levels to which are vetted.

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 would require a check of in excess of 13,000 non-police personnel records to ascertain (a) if any are subject of a DAS and (b) the level of vetting they hold. We would require to check each record manually as there is no capability within the vetting system to search for this data. This would take around 5-10 minutes per record, so would significantly exceed the cost limits prescribed by the Scottish Ministers in terms of the legislation.

 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.