| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-0179  Responded to: 11 February 2025 |
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Your original correspondence has been split into several individual requests due to wide scope and variety of subject matter therein.  The remainder of your request will be answered separately.

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

1. **The number of historic sexual offence cases within the last five years where the alleged perpetrator was a public figure or senior police officer.**
2. **Details of Police Scotland’s protocol for handling such cases, including any specific measures to prevent conflicts of interest.**
3. **High-level summaries of outcomes, including any cases that proceeded to court, were dropped, or remained under investigation.**

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

By way of explanation, we have no formal definition of historic sexual abuse, and we do not have a marker that would indicate an accused individual was a public figure, which is also open to interpretation.

Regarding police officers, if you can define historic, as well as your definition of senior, we may be able to provide data for police officers only, if this is of interest.

1. **Internal or external reviews or audits addressing how effectively Police Scotland investigates these sensitive matters.**
2. **Copies or summaries of internal memos, audits, or recommendations regarding identified deficiencies in handling historic sexual offences (e.g., victim support, evidence handling, oversight).**
3. **Any subsequent actions taken to improve investigations, training, or resources.**

In response to the 3 questions above, unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

By way of explanation, there is no way to determine if any memos, reviews or audits discuss the matters mentioned in your request without a manual assessment of each document.As such, this is an exercise which would exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

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.