| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1651  Responded to: xx July 2024 |
| --- | --- |

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

**The number of police officers currently under investigation in the Shetland force and why?**

In relation to the number of Police officers currently under investigation and why, the pool of individuals to whom the data could relate is considered sufficiently low that there exists the potential for individuals to be easily identified.

On that basis*, if* information was held relating to your request, this would amount to the personal data of those officers.

Personal data - where it is assessed that disclosure would contravene the data protection principles as defined in the Act - is exempt from disclosure in terms of section 38(1)(b) of the Act.

On that basis, in terms of section 18 of the Act, I am therefore refusing to confirm or deny whether the information sought is held by Police Scotland as the public interest overwhelmingly lies in protecting individuals’ right to privacy and honouring their expectation of confidentiality.

**What is the disciplinary process like?**

To help understand Police Scotland’s disciplinary procedure, the formal conduct process for Police Officers is governed by [The Police Service of Scotland (Conduct) Regulations 2014](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2014/68/contents/made).

The associated [Scottish Government Guidance Document](https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/factsheet/2018/04/conduct-and-performance-procedures-police-guidance/documents/police-guidance-conduct-procedures/police-guidance-conduct-procedures/govscot%3Adocument/Police%2BService%2Bof%2BScotland%2B%2528conduct%2529%2Bregulations%2B2014.pdf) further details the process and conduct cases are categorised in line with our [Standards of Professional Behaviour](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/who-we-are/our-standards-of-professional-behaviour/).

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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) 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.