| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 24-1427Responded to: 30 July 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**This is a FOI request concerning communication to the Chief Constable and their level of strategic and operational oversight.**

**1) Is there a risk assessment for the force identifying specific threats to policing. If so, the requester would like a copy of this policy.**

**In addition, the requester specifically seeks a statement as to how unlawful surveillance (a technological reality in the UK and China for decades), control mechanisms (possible use of negative information gained from aforementioned surveillance) and digital interference (able to skew investigations) are managed with regards to external threats? These can be internalised and provide for worker conduct to be contrary to the interests of policing.**

**2) Does the Chief Constable have the ability (human and technological) to carry out monitoring checks regarding incoming emails/phone calls and/or crime reports coming into the control room or to specific officers**

**Are these checks random or with a particular frequency? Are they carried out remotely? Do they involve role based or named email addresses - civilian and police operatives? What do the checks involve?**

**3) Are police officers and civillian staff permitted to have personal mobiles whilst on work duty? If so, the requester seeks a copy of the policy? In terms of this decision making the requester also seeks evidence that there has been evaluation of the threat that instantaneous communication from an external source can bring?**

**4) In relation to professional standards and complaints - what system is in place prior to sending a response - e.g. Is this one administrative worker, inclusive of supervision or requiring the CC or other role? Further, what level of information access does the CC have in relation to the content of a complaint (e.g. internal complaint response, complainant paperwork, evidence)? What proportion of complaints are viewed by the CC - a)all, b)selection, c)none? If, a selection - by what criteria? How is the viewing recorded? Is there a mechanisms by which systemic issues are identified?**

**5) What is the force policy regarding direct communication from a member of the public to the Chief Constable?**

**Is the CC's email address publicly available? Please provide this information. Does the CC have access to the inbox for all their incoming mails? How often does the CC view their inbox, as opposed to reliance on an assistant to prioritise and gate-keep on a lower salary and with greater vulnerability?**

**How is this approach rationalised by the force - given other communication channels - e.g. judicial review and super-complaints represents an adversarial and arduous route, but also that communication can be thwarted by internal risks as at (1) and (5).**

**6) How is the above way of operating (transparency and accessibility) rationalised with the increasing emphasis on democratising policing at a local level and the increase in external threats to policing, as per (1) and (5)?**

## 7) In regards to FOI requests, please detail the communication policy to the CC. Are these all requests automatically sent to the CC prior or post publication - a statutory duty?

**8) Communication routes for feeding into democratic process? Please detail the force routes/policy for CC to communicate issues to parliament? Is there regular liaison with the members of parliament covering the policing area with the CC? Does the CC meet with other forces CC's from other areas for the purposes of sharing and gathering information concerning external threats to policing.**

I am refusing to comply with your request in terms of section 14(2) of the Act:

“Where a Scottish public authority has complied with a request from a person for information, it is not obliged to comply with a subsequent request from that person which is identical or substantially similar unless there has been a reasonable period of time between the making of the request complied with and the making of the subsequent request.”

Your request was previously answered on 24/07/2024 with reference FOI 24-1409.

Our response can be viewed on the Police Scotland Disclosure Log:

[24-1409 - Chief Constables role and operational activity/ involvement in processes - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/disclosure-log-2024/july/24-1409-chief-constables-role-and-operational-activity-involvement-in-processes/)

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.