| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-2366Responded to: xx October 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I am looking to find the correct information for a novel I am writing.

## In my novel I have a detective in Scotland and I am wondering if detective is the proper term or if it would be inspector or officer?

## I am also wondering what the chain of command is. Who would be above him? Would he have a partner? Who would he report too? What is the different levels of the police force? I would love to be as accurate as I can for my novel.

## I already contacted London but they refused to help me so I really hope you can.

## Do detectives carry a gun? Are they dressed in suits? Or do they wear a uniform?

Freedom of Information legislation provides a right of access to recorded information only.

We are generally therefore, unable to answer hypothetical questions or comment on scenarios as such questions are not valid in terms of section 8 of the Act.

However, to be of assistance, Police Officer rank structure can be found through the following link on our website [Pay and Rank Structure - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/finance/pay-and-grading-structure/)​.

Standard Operating Procedures for Uniform, Armed Policing and Crime Investigations may assist - these are available on our website - [Standard Operating Procedures - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/policies-and-procedures/standard-operating-procedures/).

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.