| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1792  Responded to: 27th July 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1. What database management system (DBMS) does the SID use to store information i.e. is it based on an ORACLE, SQL etc type database setup?

In response to the question above, 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.

The exemptions that I consider to be applicable to the information requested by you are:

**Section 31(1) – National Security and Defence**

**Section 35(1)(a)&(b) – Law Enforcement**

**Section 39(1) – Health, Safety and the Environment**

Disclosure would assist those with hostile intent to identify the technologies used and allow them to devise methods to attack the integrity of the Scottish Intelligence Database.

Any loss of service of what is a key law enforcement tool can only serve to undermine the law enforcement role of the force in preventing and detecting crime and apprehending offenders, as well as ensuring national security and keeping people safe.

This is a non-absolute exemption and requires the application of the Public Interest Test.

I would suggest that public accountability may favour disclosure, given that the information concerns the efficient and effective use of resources by the Service.

Likewise, disclosure of the information would also inform the public debate on the issue of policing and contribute to the accuracy of that debate.

However, any disclosure under FOI legislation is a disclosure to the world at large and disclosure could be used to the advantage of criminals in attacking the system.

Consequently, in terms of the applicability of the exemptions listed above, the need to ensure the effective conduct of the service in relation to prevention and detection of crime and the public safety considerations involved in the delivery of operational policing clearly favour non-disclosure of the information requested.

## 2. What is the retention period for records on this system i.e. does this system follow an automatic weeding process like the CHS?

## 3. If there is no automatic weeding process, please advise under what circumstances information is reviewed, modified or removed?

This information is publicly available within Police Scotland’s Record Retention Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on the Police Scotland website.

As such, 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”*

The information sought is available within the ‘Intelligence’ section of the [Record Retention SOP](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/nhobty5i/record-retention-sop.pdf) (page 70).

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.