| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 24-0976Responded to: xx April 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## This video [BRING\_THE\_NOISE on X:](https://twitter.com/Nohj_85/status/1775200510884131291?t=eqTHtCQG8vzzKIBmrTJDrg&s=19)  states that Alan Spiers instructed the whole of Police Scotland not to investigate evidence of any potential crimes relating to Covid vaccinations.

## Under FOISA 2002 I require the following information:

## 1. The actual instruction given by Alan Spiers (apparently on 1st January 2022) that the officer is referring to.

Please see the attached document – 24-0976 Information refers.

One line of text has been removed under Section 16 of the Act 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.

Where information is considered to be exempt, serves as a Refusal Notice that information is held and an explanation of the appropriate exemption is provided;

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

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

Police Scotland has a duty of care to its staff and in particular to those officers who specifically work within the areas concerned. Public disclosure of the information would also endanger the safety of those specific individuals as well as the wider public.

Modern-day policing is intelligence led, and disclosure would enable those engaged in criminal activity to identify the focus of policing targets.

The exemption of this information would apply insofar as disclosure of any such information would be prejudicial to the law enforcement role of Police Scotland and allow individuals to gauge with some accuracy the operational activity of Police Scotland and provide a tactical advantage when planning or perpetrating crimes.

On that basis, any public interest in disclosing the information is outweighed by that in maintaining the exemption.

## 2. Any and all information surrounding that instruction including all correspondence, emails and any other relevant data.

A thorough search of our documents archive and a number of potentially relevant mailboxes has confirmed that no further information is held - as such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

Police Scotland has retention rules in place for all records and any such documents may no longer held by the Service.

## 3. The original source of this instruction (e.g. was it from the Scottish First Minister?) and the accompanying correspondence.

The guidance was issued in line with the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) national response to concerns around the publication of multiple social media posts maintaining the Metropolitan Police had launched a criminal investigation into the Covid-19 vaccine which claimed public organisations had suppressed information about the severity of health implications for those taking the Covid-19 vaccine.

The Metropolitan Police later confirmed that no criminal investigation had been launched.

To clarify, the attached document communicated Police Scotland’s position in that any efforts to intimidate, harass, or commit assault against emergency service workers, staff and volunteers would not be tolerated and those would be treated and investigated as a criminal matter by police forces.

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.