| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1672  Responded to: 15th July 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Each summer, the Scottish Football Association (and other bodies that organise football fixtures) invite Police Scotland to write to it with any requirements or requests related to the setting of football fixtures.

## Typically, this includes a 'pairing' request where, for example, police request team A is not at home on the same day/week as team B.

## It can also allow police to notify the fixture planners of public holidays, celebrations, political conferences, concerts and other events that could affect policing of football fixtures, so fixture planners can take them into account when planning the fixture calendar.

## Please send me copies of the letter/s Police Scotland sent related to this for the forthcoming 24/25 season. It is likely the letter/s were sent in April, May or June.

I would first of all advise you that there are no letters sent to the SFA, meaning the information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act applies.

Taking a wider interpretation of your request to be of assistance, a spreadsheet is shared with the SPFL which is split by police division and details dates/ clubs with comments as regards preferred fixture planning.

The spreadsheet details resource intensive events - national matters such as Bonfire Night or Remembrance Sunday - as well as more local matters such as a Rugby Match at Murrayfield or a concert etc.

It also however, details other operational abstractions which would be otherwise unknown.

It is important to note that whilst the information is shared with the SPFL for consideration, the final decision ultimately lies with them.

That means that a date where we’ve suggested no local fixture due to resourcing could, nonetheless, go ahead regardless.

I am therefore refusing to provide a copy of the spreadsheet in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the following exemptions apply:

Section 31(1) - National Security and Defence

Section 35(1)(a)&(b) - Law enforcement

Section 39(1) - Health, Safety and the environment

Disclosure would undermine national security by enabling targeted individuals and groups to become aware of how and when resources are allocated. This would assist individuals and groups with criminal intent to avoid detection and inhibit the prevention and detection of crime.

Disclosure of resourcing information, particularly in the sense of identified weaknesses or vulnerabilities, has the potential to increase the risk of crime and disorder, thereby endangering the public and police officers.

Public accountability may favour disclosure, given the information concerns the efficient and effective use of police resources. Likewise, disclosure would also inform the public debate on the issue of policing and contribute to the accuracy of that debate.

However, FOI disclosures are disclosures to the world at large and any information identifying the focus of policing activity could be used to the advantage of criminals.

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.

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.