| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1695  Responded to: 16th August 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Please send me the police report from the Scottish Cup final between Celtic and Rangers played at Hampden Park on May 25, 2024.

Following clarification with you, you advised:

## After each major football fixtures, the match commander will write a report which summarises any incidents that happened before, during and after the game.

## It will usually include information related to the match category, the number of stewards and police officers on duty, the kind of resources deployed and anything else. The purpose of the report is to educate other officers for future events.

## It is common for such reports to be written for matches in Scotland but also overseas if the match involves Scotland national team or a Scottish club team - with the understanding being that Police Scotland is there in a support capacity for the local police.

The Match Commander, also known as Event Policing Lead, no longer writes a report at the conclusion of any events.

Details of each event are now recorded live on Police Scotland’s STORM incident recording system as they occur therefore, I regret to inform you that the document sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

To be of assistance I have provided a copy of the relevant operational order which is drawn up before the match and a copy of a post-match intelligence report. Both documents detail some of the information requested.

As you will note some information has been redacted as it is considered to be exempt from disclosure.

The redacted information is held by Police Scotland, but I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the following exemptions apply:

**Section 30(c) - Prejudice to the Effective Conduct of Public Affairs**

Disclosure would otherwise prejudice substantially the effective conduct of public affairs.

In this instance the telephone number and e-mail address cannot be disclosed. To release these details publicly through FOI legislation could negatively impact on the operational effectiveness of the service and partner agencies. The phone numbers and email addresses are used for operational/business purposes and this information has been removed in order to ensure that internal processes are protected.

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

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

Disclosure would prejudice substantially the prevention or detection of crime and apprehension or prosecution of offenders by adversely impacting on the operational effectiveness of the Service.

Being aware of details and planned actions would allow persons or groups intent on committing offences or causing disorder with the means to make a reasonable assessment of future football matches and other similar events. This in turn would allow those individuals or groups to make an accurate assessment of the capacity of the Service to deal with incidents at specific matches, compromising any tactical advantage the police may have over such persons or groups when dealing with any crime or disorder.

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

**Section 38(1)(b) – Personal Information**

Information which would identify staff (name of individual) whose details are not in the public domain cannot be disclosed. The release of this information to a third party would breach the requirement that exists in relation to processing personal information.

This is an absolute exemption and does not require application of the Public Interest Test.

**Public Interest Test**

Two of the exemptions detailed above are non-absolute and require the application of the public interest test.

It is accepted that there is a public interest in the disclosure of the information on the basis that it could lead to greater transparency and public debate.

The withheld material contains information relating to how events/ future events are policed, ultimately revealing specific operational strategies. Any such release would either compromise or significantly weaken police tactics and would also undermine any on-going investigations and potentially any future investigations, enabling targeted individuals or groups to become aware of such strategies and find ways to circumvent them.

Taking the above into consideration, I believe the public interest in withholding the redacted material outweighs that for disclosure.

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.