| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-0022  Responded to: 30 January 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I would like to request a copy of all invoices between your force and Sancus Solutions and related companies.

## Here is a link to the Sancus Solutions website so that you can easily identify the correct company:

## [www.sancussolutions.co.uk](http://www.sancussolutions.co.uk)

## To make this request very clear, I would like a copy of all of the invoices, contracts and purchase orders that have been submitted to the police force by the following companies and other companies or entities that are related and associated to and/or controlled by an individual named Anthony Stephen John Hester.

## The following are examples of entities which I have identified which are registered in the UK and are linked to Sancus Solutions Ltd, but operate under different company names and registration numbers:

## SANCUS SOLUTIONS LIMITED (06993496)

## THE SANCUS PARTNERSHIP LTD (08267418)

## HESTER MARKETING LTD (07480053)

## SANCUS OPERATIONS LTD (13733859)

## DDRS NORTH WEST LTD (09978985)

I can advise that Police Scotland hold 2 purchase orders and have paid 2 invoices to Sancus Operations LTD (517688).

As you may be aware the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (the Act) gives an individual the right to ask a Scottish public authority for the information they hold, however, I would ask that you note that the legislation provides a right to receive information rather than a right to receive copies of documents.

In this instance I have provided, at this end of this letter, a synopsis of the information contained within the 2 purchase orders and the 2 invoices, please note bank account details have been omitted. Further some information is considered to be exempt and in terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (the Act) requires Police Scotland 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. Where information is considered to be exempt, this letter serves as a Refusal Notice that information is held and an explanation of the appropriate exemption is provided.

**Section 33(1) (b) – Commercial Interests**

Such information will not be disclosed as it is considered to be commercially sensitive. Disclosure of this information would give a competitive advantage to companies in any future tender process. In addition it could put the supplier at a disadvantage, if in future another business asks them to deliver similar training as disclosure could prevent them from charging more for it on basis Police Scotland were only charged a set amount

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

**Public Interest Test**

Police Scotland is a publicly funded organisation and therefore the Service has an obligation to obtain best value for money with particular services. Further, in order to do this, it is essential to maintain working relationships with companies that tender their services.

As such, Police Scotland will not disclose any information that would impact on the ability to do both. The public interest would not be served if it were no longer possible to engage companies in a tender offer if they believed that conducting business with Police Scotland would result in their confidential financial information being released**.**

Further, you have requested details of Police Scotland’s contract with this company and in terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that information is not held.

By way of explanation, Police Scotland do not have a contract with this company.

With regards to your request for information relating to “other companies or entities that are related and associated to and/or controlled by an individual named Anthony Stephen John Hester”, I can advise that Police Scotland does not hold information in the format requested.

In terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that information is not held.

As you will be aware an individual’s right in terms of the legislation is to obtain information held by a public authority at the time a request is received and there is no obligation on them to create new information specifically for this request.

By way of explanation, our Finance department have no way of establishing if any other companies are linked to the named individuals.

Finally and in relation to the 5 companies listed above, I can advise that Police Scotland does not hold the above requested information. In terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that information is not held.

By way of explanation, a search of our recording systems has not identified any relevant information.

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.

PURCHASE ORDERS/INVOICES RECEIVED TO/FROM SANCUS OPERATIONS LTD

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| --- | --- | --- |
| ORDER DATE | INVOICE DATE | TOTAL VALUE OF BOTH INCLUDING VAT |
| 28/02/2023  04/08/2023 | 16/03/2023  11/08/2023 | £6852.00 |