| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-2077  Responded to: 18 September 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Could you please provide a figure for the total amount of Bitcoin currently held by the Police Scotland and the total amount of Bitcoin sold by the Police Scotland, since 26 April 2024, when sections 3C to 3F of the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023 came into force?

The information sought 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:

S31 – National Security and Defence

Information is exempt information if it is required for purpose of safeguarding national security.

Disclosure of this information would undermine any ongoing or future operations to protect the security or infrastructure of the United Kingdom and increase the risk of harm to the public.

The public entrust the Police Service to make appropriate decisions with regard to their safety and protection and the only way of reducing risk is to be cautious with what is placed into the public domain.

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

S34 – Investigations by a Scottish public authorities and proceedings arising out of such investigations.

Section 34(1)(b) of the Act provides an absolute exemption from disclosure in that information is exempt information if it has at any time been held by Police Scotland for the purposes of an investigation which may lead to a decision to make a report to the Procurator Fiscal to enable it to be determined whether criminal proceedings should be instituted.

S35 – Law enforcement

Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would or would be likely to prejudice substantially the prevention or detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

Disclosure of the requested information would impact on the process of investigating this case. One of the main purposes of the Police Service is to prevent crime but to release this information would be contrary to that purpose.

This is a non-absolute exemption and requires the application of the public interest test.

**Public interest**

The security of the country is of paramount importance and Police Scotland will not divulge any information which could undermine National Security or compromise Law Enforcement. Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing operations and capability, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding both national security and the integrity of law enforcement generally. As much as there is public interest in knowing that policing activity, is appropriate and balanced in matters of national security, this will only be overridden in exceptional circumstances.

Security measures are put in place to protect the community that we serve. To reveal the information requested would provide individuals intent on carrying out criminal behaviour, details of policing activity. This would ultimately increase the risk of harm to the general public and significantly undermine any ongoing or future operations to protect the security or infrastructure of the United Kingdom and increase the risk of harm to the public.

Consequently, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of non-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.