| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-2202  Responded to: 26 September 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I wish details / structure chart of your Chief Data Office. I would also like a list of job titles and salary grades assigned to each post within the chief data office of Police Scotland.

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:

Section 31(1) - National Security and Defence

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

Disclosure of this information could 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.

If the information requested is disclosed, it could be used along with other public information to develop an understanding of Police Scotland’s technological capabilities. This would assist groups, organisations, and those with hostile intent with tactical advantage when planning or perpetrating such plans and unlawful activities and maximise the impact of destruction, harm and disruption that may be caused.

35(1)(a)&(b) – 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.

Public safety is of paramount importance and disclosure of this information would allow criminals the ability to assess the capability of Police Scotland.

Disclosure of this information would enable criminals to build a picture of resources and capabilities and as such would allow them to carry out their criminal activities.

To disclose this information into the public domain would compromise the effective delivery of operational law enforcement. In addition, the requested information, if disclosed, could be used to calculate how and when resources are allocated within the specialist areas of protection.

Those with criminal intent would then be in a position to more accurately estimate the resources allocated to protect such individuals in the future.

Public Interest Test

As you will be aware, the exemptions detailed above are non-absolute and require the application of the public interest test. Public awareness would favour a disclosure as it would contribute to the public debate surrounding the use and deployment of this specialist unit.

That said, I would contend that the efficient/effective conduct of the service and public safety favours retention of the information as it cannot be in the public interest to release information that would prejudice law enforcement or which is likely to have an adverse impact upon public safety.

To be of assistance, I can confirm that the Chief Data Office at Police Scotland comprises 63 employees ranging from grades 1 to 12. This team is led by Chief Data Officer Denis Hamill.

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.