| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 24-0843Responded to: xx April 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I would like to request information regarding "police challenge coins" within Police Scotland: Received in Edinburgh, the coin in question was emblazoned with the words "thin blue line" on one side and a black and white image of the union flag on the other, where the central line was blue.

## Are these "challenge coins" an official Police Scotland initiative, and if so what is the stated aim of their existence? Please issue me with any available documents that pertain to such an initiative, including internal justification for why such divisive imagery would be considered appropriate.

## Following enquiries, I can confirm that the challenge coins described have not been purchased or promoted by Police Scotland’s E Division.

For this reason I must respond in terms of Section 17(1) of the Act: Information not held.

## Were these "one thousand coins" that the officer referenced purchased with public money, and if so how much public money was spent? If they are an official initiative, purchased with public money, is there any intention to spend further public money on them in the future? Please issue me with any documents that pertain to the procurement of these coins and where any relevant funds came from.

See the response above – no information held.

## Does Police Scotland have a policy on officers displaying this kind of imagery, while on or off duty, in light of the fact that it was banned by the Met police? Please supply any relevant documents pertaining to such a policy, regarding both "thin blue line" imagery specifically, and any other political expressions by serving officers on duty.

A search of our policy documents has returned a negative result in terms of challenge coins generally or political expressions – again I must advise you that Section 17 applies.

I can only suggest you may wish to contact other organisations e.g. Scottish Police Recreation Association (SPRA), Scottish Police Federation (SPF), Care of Police Survivors (COPS) etc. who may be able to offer further information or advice.

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 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 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.