| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-2978  Responded to: xx December 2024 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## On Sunday 10.11.24 police stopped an authorised church parade from continuing on their route along Abercrombie Street apparently because of the presence of a mob opposed to people marching to church on Remembrance Sunday. The parade route had been approved by both Glasgow City Council and Police Scotland and yet when a sectarian mob, some of whom were wearing balaclavas gathered to protest, the officers on duty prevented the marchers from completing their journey to church on what is an important day of remembrance. I was not present on this occasion but I have been informed that many of the so called protesters arrived from another part of the east-end of Glasgow escorted by police officers.

## I have been informed by Glasgow City Council that despite the parade to church being authorised it was Police Scotland who stopped it due to the presence of the unauthorised ' counter protest '.

## Can you confirm that this church parade was stopped by police and if so why and why do the rights of an unauthorised mob take precedent over those who abided by the regulations governing processions?

There is no overarching guidance document on the policing of protests and assemblies etc, held by Police Scotland.

Nevertheless the obligation on the police to act in accordance with the ECHR is outlined in Section 6 of the Human Rights Act which states that it is ‘unlawful for a public authority to act in a way which is incompatible with a Convention right.

Police Scotland are a rights based organisation.

ECHR Articles 9, 10 and 11 form the basis of an individual’s right to participate in peaceful protest.

ECHR Articles 9(1) and 10(1) are qualified rights. This means that lawful restrictions may be imposed on the exercise of the right to freedom of expression provided any such restrictions are in accordance with the law; have one or more legitimate aim (such as public safety, the prevention of disorder or crime or the protection of the rights of others); and are necessary and proportionate.

## Was any action taken against those who prevented the church parade from taking place on this occasion?

I can confirm that the police were called to a disturbance at around 12.15pm on Sunday, 10 November 2024, where a crowd had been gathered at Crownpoint Road, Glasgow. On police arrival most of the crowd had dispersed.

Police enquiries remain ongoing to establish the full circumstances of the incident.

In terms of section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the specific information requested.

Section 34(1)(b) – Investigations

This 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.

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.