| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-1065Responded to: 30 May 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

**My names xxxxx xxxx and I’m looking to investigate the SNP case. I would like all paperwork, interview footage, I would like everything.**

**The reasoning for this is as follows:**

**Police Scotland is the single service responsible for policing in Scotland. It is held to account by the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) which is accountable to Scottish Ministers and the Scottish Parliament. - source Google**

**I think it’s rather backwards that the police are investigating the SNP when Police Scotland are under the thumb of the government. I don’t think the investigation will be adequate, fair or justifiable. Already so early on in your investigation it seems like it’s going to be a cover up. (Like all other investigations into government misconduct. I.e partygate, prince andrew scandal, the list goes on, and on and on. These people need to be held accountable, rather than money and “rank” in our society.**

**So as a member of the public with more resources to find any discrepancies, backhanders, bribes and illegal donations. Furthermore the corruption of the police, because any investigating officer if they whistleblow the SNP essentially owns them and bosses will always find a way of silencing these good honourable officers with threats of redundancy, reduced hours or as I’ve been told before by previous officers.**

**So I request that the public have a right to see ALL evidence, many eyes can’t lie, the saying two heads are better than one, hundreds of thousands of people will look into the evidence from around the world, some of the best people in their field of expertise. Including accounts, solicitors and data analysts. Let my team help you.**

**I hope this find you well and hopefully spiked your interest and hopefully you will see this request is for the greater good. And you yourself could stand up against the corruption in UK politics.**

The information requested by you is considered to be exempt in terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (the Act). Section 16 of 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. The exemptions that I consider to be applicable to the information requested are as follows:

**Section 34(1) (a) (i) & (b) – Investigations by a Scottish public authority and proceedings arising out of such investigations**

Information is considered exempt information if it has, at any time, been held by a Scottish public authority for the purposes of an investigation which may lead to a decision to report the circumstances to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service to enable a determination on whether criminal proceedings should be instigated and to determine whether a person should be prosecuted for an offence.

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

**Section 38(1) (b) of the Act - personal information.**

Personal data is defined in Article 4 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as:

*‘Information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person (“data subject”); an identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person’*

Section 38(2A) of the Act provides that personal data is exempt from disclosure where disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles set out at Article 5(1) of the GDPR which states that:

*‘Personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject’*

Article 6 of the GDPR goes on to state that processing shall be lawful only if certain conditions are met. The only potentially applicable condition is Article 6(1) (f) which states:

*‘Processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by the controller or by a third party, except where such interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject which require protection of personal data.*

Whilst I accept that you may have a legitimate interest with regards the disclosure of this information and that disclosure may well be necessary for that purpose, I am nonetheless of the view that those interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject.

**Public Interest Test**

I appreciate there is a degree of interest in the release of such information: however this must be tempered against what is of interest to the public and what is in the public interest.

The Act does not define the public interest, however, it has been described as “something which is of serious concern and benefit to the public”, not merely something of individual interest. It has also been described as “something that is “in the interest of the public”, not merely “of interest to the public.” In other words, it serves the interests of the public.

It is in the public interest that an understanding exists as to the processes involved in police investigations and in their relative success. This is particularly true in investigations, therefore, accountability and transparency relating to the actions of Police Scotland and its officers would favour disclosure of the information.

That said, a decision for non-disclosure follows consideration of ongoing or likely criminal investigations and the efficient and effective conduct of Police Scotland in relation to such investigations.

It is essential that information pertaining to investigations is disclosed at the correct time, where appropriate, to ensure that neither the investigation nor the potential for proceedings to be brought against an individual(s) are put at risk. Due to this being a live investigation, the release of specific details could prejudice the case and as a result, affect the administration of justice.

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.