



LETTER SENT BY E-MAIL ONLY

30 October 2024

2024/25-068

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

Request

Please find below our response to your correspondence dated 25 September, and forwarded to the Authority on 2 October, in which you made the following request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

"Please forward me the following:

1. Exact details of the SPAs claimed 'due diligence' concerning [named individual's] role as an 'independent external expert'
2. [Named individual's] email response relating to the above"

For context, we note that your request relates to vacancy ID 2719 - Forensic Lead (Firearms).

Response

Your request for information has been considered and the Authority is able to provide the following.

You asked for "Exact details of the SPAs claimed 'due diligence' concerning [named individual's] role as an 'independent external expert'"

Forensic Services can advise that the external interview panel member for vacancy ID 2719 - Forensic Lead (Firearms) was asked the following:

"Can you confirm that you have no personal knowledge of the candidate out with any possible work interactions".

You asked for "[Named individual's] email response relating to the above".

An extract from an email received in response dated Friday 23 August 2024 is provided.

"hi [REDACTED]

Re the candidates, I have met/ know professionally [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. I may recognise face and not know names or vice versa vbut that is the extent of my "relationship".

I know them either through NABIS FFP meetings, police firearms expert (as in not forensic expert witness) meetings, ENFSI meetings, NCA /Helston Gunsmith workshop, or training course that I have arranged in the MPS and invited them to join."

Information has been redacted where this is your own personal information¹ or that of a third party² as this is exempt in terms of the Act.

These exemptions are absolute and do not require application of the public interest test. While you may have a legitimate interest in disclosure of this information, it is our view that those interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subjects. Interview panel members and applicants would not expect their personal information to be disclosed into the public domain.

To assist, we would advise that individuals can submit a Subject Access Request (SAR) to request information which relates to them. Information on [submitting a SAR](#) is available on our website.

Right to Review

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your request you can ask for a review within 40 working days. You must specify the reason for your dissatisfaction and submit your request by email to foi@spa.police.uk or by letter to Scottish Police Authority, 1 Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1DZ.

If you remain dissatisfied after review, you can appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months. You can apply [online](#), by

¹ This is a notice in terms of Section 38(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - Personal data of the applicant.

² This is a notice in terms of Section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 – Third party data. Disclosure would contravene the data protection principle in Article 5(1)(a) of the General Data Protection Regulation: personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject.

email to enquiries@foi.scot or by letter to Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Commissioner's decision, you can appeal to the Court of Session, only if you think the law has not been applied correctly.

This response will be posted to our [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.

Yours faithfully

SPA Corporate Management