



## LETTER SENT BY E-MAIL ONLY

12 June 2023

2023/24-017

### Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

#### Request

Please find below our response to your correspondence dated 5 June, in which you made the following request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002:

The Scottish Police Authority's role is to maintain policing, promote policing principles and continuous improvement of policing, and to hold the Chief Constable of Police Scotland to account.

To request copies of communication between the SPA and Chief Constable

On any matters of holding any Chief Constable to account

Ever

#### Response

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

Having considered your request, we can inform you that we are unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

The current cost threshold is £600 and we estimate that it would cost in excess of this amount to process your request. Therefore, this represents

a refusal notice in terms of Section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 – Excessive Cost of Compliance.

To explain, the Authority was established in April 2013 and holding the Chief Constable to account for the policing of Scotland is one of our core functions. We have interpreted your request for communications to include correspondence, emails, minutes and briefings. The Authority's communications are not classified in a manner which would enable information for such a wide ranging request, over a 10 year timeframe, to be identified. For example, this would mean individual review of every piece of correspondence and email between the Authority and Chief Constable held at the time of your request.

The Authority has assessed that the £600 cost limit within the Act equates to 40 hours of work and so your request would exceed the cost threshold.

To assist, we would point you to our website. The business of the Authority and its committees are conducted in public and can be watched, live or recorded, on our [Livestream channel](#). Agendas and papers for public sessions are published in advance - [SPA Meetings](#).

You may be interested in viewing the recordings and papers for meetings of the [Authority](#), at which the Chief Constable reports on information relating to the police service, policing and the state of crime. Also of interest may be the [Policing Performance Committee](#), the purpose of which is to provide oversight and scrutiny of continuous improvement in policing.

You may wish to consider making a request in regard to a specific policing issue, during a particular timeframe, which may bring your request under the cost threshold.

## **Right to Review**

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been dealt with you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to [foi@spa.police.uk](mailto:foi@spa.police.uk) or by post to Corporate Management Team, Scottish Police Authority, 1 Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1DZ.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision.

You can apply [online](#), by email to [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Scottish Police Authority Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.

