

09 September 2022

2022_060

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

REQUEST DETAILS

Please find below our response to your correspondence dated 29 August in which you made the following request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002:

Can the Scottish Police Authority please tell me what are the guidelines regarding police and journalists in Scotland and supply the relevant page/s?

RESPONSE

Your request for information has been considered and the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) is able to provide the following;

A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on notifiable associations for all officers, staff, special constables and voluntary staff, supports an Anti-Corruption Policy that recognises the need to maintain organisational and public trust and confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the service. The core objective of the Notifiable Association SOP is to protect the integrity of those working within policing.

As your request regards "police and journalists", from which we have taken to mean police officers, we have provided a link to the Notifiable Associations SOP available on Police Scotland's website –

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/qjgnl4hh/notifiable-associations-sop.pdf>

Section 3 of this SOP provides guidance on different types of associations and an indication of when a Report of Notifiable Association should be declared. Section 3.2, bullet point 5, refers to media/press including journalists (p.6).

Further information may be available by contacting Police Scotland. Information on how to make a request to Police Scotland is provided at:-

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/>

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 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 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.