



## LETTER SENT BY E-MAIL ONLY

11 November 2024

2024/25-075

### Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

#### Request

Please find below our response to your correspondence dated 23 October 2024, in which you made the following request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002:

"1) Any guidance issued to Police Scotland on giving detainees unlicensed drugs like Dihydrocodeine to detainees, without consent and the documented information that Dihydrocodeine should not be given to heroin addicts. What training do you recommend for custodial staff to perform 1st medical triage, and dispense medication to detainees. The medical view confirmed in official government documents including the Orange list since 2007, that Dihydrocodeine causes very severe side effects including seizures.

"2) Does the SPA, have any documentation that medically ill or mental ill individuals should not be treated, your instructions for detaining individuals who are too ill to complete a vulnerable assessment.

"3) what are your guidance on putting overdosing detainees into cells.

"4) Does detainees have rights under Health and safety regulations including RIDDOR, how many detainees injuries were reported under RIDDOR. Do you liaise with any other organisations to find out best practices, to improve to support continuous improvement."

## Response

The Scottish Police Authority has considered your request and is able to confirm that the Authority does not hold any information in respect of the four questions asked.<sup>1</sup>

By means of explanation - Medical treatment and provision, including the administration of medicine, for persons in police custody is the responsibility of National Health Service (NHS). If you require any specific information relating to the provision of medication to persons in police custody, we recommend you contact the NHS territorial boards for any instructions or guidance.

His Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary conduct regular inspections of custody suites which are published online and contain information on access to healthcare, medicine management, substance use, mental health and general healthcare provision. Some of the most recent publications can be found in the links below:

[HMICS: Custody Inspection Report – Argyl and West Dunbartonshire](#)

[HMICS: Custody Inspection Report - Ayrshire](#)

[HMICS: Custody Inspection Report - Dumfries and Galloway](#)

[HMICS: Custody Inspection Report - Fife](#)

In relation to Health and Safety reportable incidents and RIDDORs in police custody – information may be available from Police Scotland. You can contact Police Scotland at [foi@scotland.police.uk](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) You may also wish to refer to [Police Scotland's Disclosure Log](#).

## 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](mailto: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 email to [enquiries@foi.scot](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) or by letter to Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

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<sup>1</sup> This represents a notice in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - Information not held.

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](#) after seven days.

Yours faithfully

**SPA Corporate Management**

