



## LETTER SENT BY E-MAIL ONLY

14 December 2023

2023/24-060

### Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

#### Request

Please find below our response to your correspondence dated 21 November, in which you made the following request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002:

Can you please provide a copy of the information contained in:

Finalised Joint Fire Investigation Report carried out by the SFRS, Police and Scottish Police Authority of a fire incident that took place on 21 June 2020, in a 17th floor drying room, in Linksfield Court, Aberdeen, AB24 1GU. This information should include the date in which such report was finalised and the signature of the Investigation Officer/s that validated such report.

#### Response

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

SPA Forensic Services does not hold a Joint Fire Investigation Report.<sup>1</sup>

To assist, we have provided the Scene Examination Report resulting from the joint fire investigation.

---

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

Some of the information is exempt in terms of the Act. Some names have been redacted as this is third party data.<sup>2</sup>

This exemption is absolute and therefore does not require the application of the public interest test. Whilst 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.

### **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.

After review, if you remain dissatisfied, you can appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months. You can apply [online](#), by email to [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) 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.

An anonymised version of this response will be posted to our [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.

---

<sup>2</sup> 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.

**RESTRICTED WHEN COMPLETE**

**To:** The Officer in Charge  
 AU Aberdeen South  
 AU Aberdeen South, Scotland

Examiner Contact Details:

**Re:** Scene Examination Report for

|                               |                                      |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Crime Reference: AZ0136230620 | Incident Reference: PS-20200621-0346 | Scene Exam ID: 200600729 |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|

**Scene Examination Report**

|                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Scene Examiner: [REDACTED]<br>Scene Exam ID: 200600729<br>EMS Case No.:<br>Scene Type: SE Scene Examination                           | AU Aberdeen South   A - North East - AU<br>Incident Reference: PS-20200621-0346<br>Crime Reference: AZ0136230620<br>Operation Name: |
| Incident Address: Linksfield Court, Aberdeen, AB241UG, Scotland<br>Examination Address: Linksfield Court, Aberdeen, AB241UG, Scotland | Date Attended: 21-Jun-2020<br>Time Arrived: 1100<br>Time Complete: 1210                                                             |
| Offence: Fireraising                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                     |
| Examination Information: PHOTOS - JOINT WITH FIRE AND RESCUE                                                                          |                                                                                                                                     |

**Scene Examination Narrative**

SE327200073  
 SE ID 200200729  
 Joint Fire Investigation-SE [REDACTED] with Watch Managers Steven Williams and [REDACTED] SFRS. DC [REDACTED] also present.  
 11.15-12.10 on 21.06.20.  
 Linksfield Court, Aberdeen.

The locus is a drying room on the 17th floor of a council owned multi-storey tower block.

There are two drying rooms on the 17th floor, one on either side of the building. The doors have locks and tenants are assigned a drying room and issued with a key for it, dependent upon which side of the floor they reside.

There are hardwired smoke detectors on the ceilings of the common landings and drying rooms. There is a no smoking policy within the building with signage to that effect displayed in public areas

At 01.00 on 21.06.20 a fire was reported in one of the drying rooms on the 17th floor. SFRS service attended and extinguished the fire.

SFRS advised the police that the fire was wilful as it appeared to have started on a carpet and there were no electrical appliances nearby.

The drying room is accessed from the common landing on the 17th floor. The door is of wooden construction with a multipoint mortise lock. There is a wooden framed doubled glazed window with a safety catch. The floor is tiled.

In the corner of the room there is a large cupboard with double wooden doors containing an electrical metal box.

There are two sets of nylon washing lines for drying cloths.

The door was unlocked and showed no signs of being forced. The window was open and appeared to have been open during the fire.

The fire appeared to have started on a carpet, near the window. It was one of several that were lying on the floor of the drying

room. The fire had burned away the pile of one of the carpets to an area of several square feet, and affected other carpets that were adjacent to and partially lying over it. The fire had melted one of the washing lines above and smoke stained the walls and ceiling. There appeared to be only one seat of fire.

An examination of the carpets showed there were four in total which appeared to be of synthetic construction. The fire damaged carpets appeared to be in the positions they had occupied during the fire. Protection marks were noted where one carpet had overlapped another.

On moving the main fire damaged carpet protection marks were noted on the tiled floor, indicating it was still in the position it had occupied during the fire.

The floor area was examined and three discarded cigarette ends were noted.

It is not possible to determine an exact cause of fire. Both a wilful and accidental cause of fire were considered.

There was evidence of smoking in the drying room with discarded cigarettes seen. It is possible that carelessly discarded smoking materials on the carpet or on to combustible material on the carpet could have started the fire. It is also possible that the fire was started deliberately by igniting the carpet or combustible material on it.

There were no electrical appliances in the room and no wall sockets were present. There was electrical equipment within the cupboard which was well away from the seat of fire and unaffected by it. An electrical cause of fire was discounted.

The locus was photographed to show the fire damage and the second intact drying room.

48 images were recorded on SD card ABD 37A and were later uploaded to the IMS server as

200600729-SE.1 -GENERAL PHOTOGRPHY Linksfield Court, Aberdeen. 21/06/2020 11:15:13

Print order selected at time of upload.

H and S-no covid issues.  
(Disposable) Nitrile gloves

Safety Boots

| Productions Recovered |                     |                             |         |    | Transferred                                |    |          |           |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------|----|--------------------------------------------|----|----------|-----------|
| Type                  | Description         | Where Found                 | Barcode | By | Storage Location                           | To | Location | Date/Time |
| Photo (General)       | -GENERAL PHOTOGRPHY | Linksfield Court, Aberdeen. |         |    | Scene Examination North » IMS » IMS Server |    |          |           |

| Scene Evaluation              |                  |              |
|-------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Evaluation Action             | Performed Status | Performed By |
| Forensic Potential Assessment | E                |              |
| Powder Application            | E                |              |
| Evidence Recovery             | E                |              |
| Imaging Procedures            | E                |              |
| 360 Sphericals                | E                |              |

**Report Completed by**

Date Completed: 22-Jun-2020