

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2015-1199



Sir Stephen House QPM  
Chief Constable

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002**

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

***I would be obliged if you could provide me with a copy of the Standard Operating Procedures adopted by Police Scotland with regards to the appropriate adult scheme and in particular in relation to the interview of adults suffering from mental disorders.***

Please find attached the Appropriate Adults Standard Operating Procedures for Police Scotland.

Please note that in respect of the telephone numbers on the appendices these are considered exempt and in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (the Act), this letter represents a Refusal Notice. Section 16 of the Act requires Police Scotland, when refusing to provide such information because the information is exempt, to provide you with a notice which: (a) states that it holds the information, (b) states that it is claiming an exemption, (c) specifies the exemption in question and (d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

### **Section 30 (c) – Prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs**

Section 30(c) of FOISA exempts information if its disclosure "would otherwise prejudice substantially, or be likely to prejudice substantially, the effective conduct of public affairs". These are the direct contact numbers provided to the Police to obtain the services of an appropriate adult.

This is a non-absolute exemption and requires the application of the public interest test.

### **Public Interest Test**

Unfortunately, I can provide no reasons in favour of disclosure of the telephone numbers being placed in the public domain. To release the telephone numbers would make it possible for any individual to continually place direct calls to these numbers thereby disrupting the Social Work Services ability to perform their core functions.

Should you require any further assistance concerning this matter please contact me directly on 01786 895864 quoting the reference number given.

If you are not satisfied with the way in which your request has been dealt with, you are entitled in the first instance, and within 40 working days of receiving this response, to request a review of the decision. Should you wish to do so, contact details are; FOI Central Processing Unit, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH - [foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. Contact details are; Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS - [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info)

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.

Yours sincerely,

Colette McGloan  
Information Management