

Date: 6 February 2015
Our Ref: IM-FOI-2015-0096
Your Ref:



Sir Stephen House QPM
Chief Constable

FOI Central Processing Unit
173 Pitt Street
Glasgow
G2 4JS

Email: foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

SUBJECT: All correspondence from all officers regarding the cancellation of the Hogmanay event at Stirling Castle

I refer to your request for information received on 12th January 2015, regarding the above which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Your request was:

I request copies of all emails, letters and memos between Chief Inspector Paul Rollo, all Police Scotland officers of all ranks, all Stirling Council officers and all Stirling Council elected members relating to the organising and ultimate cancellation of the Hogmanay event at Stirling Castle. For the avoidance of doubt I request copies of all emails and other modes of communication which mention the word Hogmanay and the words Stirling Castle. Date range: From 25th December 2014 to the 12th January 2015.

I must advise that this data is not readily extractable; as you will appreciate, to ascertain the number of relevant correspondence with the words 'Hogmanay' and 'Stirling Castle' would necessitate all correspondence being interrogated over this period to establish which would be relevant. By way of explanation, whilst such emails will be present, there is no existing method to interrogate a vast amount of email traffic to extract 'key words': foremost, those words deemed relevant may also refer to another topic. This would be a hugely burdensome undertaking. Further to the above, Chief Insp. Rollo alone has over 100 e-mails relating to the event and has identified 25 officers of varying ranks involved in the Hogmanay event. These officers would have shared emails regarding this event. Further to that, an additional 12 officers have been identified as being involved in the email threads. However, this may not be the total number of officers involved in correspondence with this event. Every item of correspondence would have to be read to see if it was relevant to the request and whether any redaction or exemption applied.

I'm sure you'll appreciate that this would be an incredibly time consuming task. To undertake this work would take in excess of the 40 hours and £600 prescribed under the Act to carry out this task and in accordance with Sections 12(1) (Excessive cost of compliance) and 16(4) (Refusal of request) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (the Act), this letter represents a Refusal notice.

Should you require any further assistance concerning this matter please contact me directly on 01259 728227 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 letter to request a review of the decision made by the Service. Should you wish to do so, contact details are; Police Scotland, FOI Central Processing Unit, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH. (Or email foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk).

Once informed of the review decision, if you are still not satisfied, then you are entitled to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. The contact details are: Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS, telephone 01334 464610. 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,

Stuart Macfarlane
Information Management