

3 March 2015

Your Ref:

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2015-0257



Sir Stephen House QPM  
Chief Constable

FOI Central Processing Unit  
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**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002**

**SUBJECT:** Old Firm Game

I refer to your email dated 3 February 2015 regarding the above which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

***Please tell me how much the policing of the Old Firm game on 1 February 2015 cost (including officer time, overtime etc.);  
Please provide any details on how this cost is to be split between Police Scotland, and Celtic and Rangers football clubs;***

£31,376.00. This is the amount billed to the Scottish Professional Football League to cover costs incurred by Police Scotland.

***Please also give me a breakdown of the following:  
Number of officers on game-related duty;  
Number of officers drafted in from outside Glasgow, and where they were drafted in from (i.e. Edinburgh);  
Number of police dogs, riot vans, and mounted police used;  
Number of officers carrying firearms and/or tasers.***



The following exemptions are applicable to the requested information:

### **Section 35 (1) (a) & (b) Law Enforcement**

The information requested is exempt, as its disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice substantially the prevention or detection of crime and apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

Release of the numbers of officers on duty and the resources utilised for this fixture would adversely impact on the operational effectiveness of the Service in policing such similar fixtures in the future. Being aware of the numbers of officers on duty and the resources utilised would allow persons or groups intent on committing offences or causing disorder with the means to make a reasonable assessment of police tactics at similar matches in the future and thus to make an assessment of the capacity of the Service to deal with such eventualities. Disclosure of this information would compromise any tactical advantage the police may have over such persons or groups when dealing with any crime or disorder.

This is a non-absolute exemption and requires the application of the Public Interest Test.

### **Section 39 (1) Health, Safety and the Environment**

The information requested is exempt as its disclosure would or would be likely to endanger the physical health or safety of an individual. As previously described, to disclose the number of police officers deployed and resources utilised would allow those intent on committing crime or causing disorder to gauge the likelihood of detection or to take measures to negate the likelihood of detection. This would leave spectators and members of the public at an increased risk of being the victim of crime and jeopardise wider community safety.

This is a non-absolute exemption and requires the application of the Public Interest Test.

### **Public Interest Test**

The public interest factors favouring disclosure surround the release of accurate information into the public domain for the awareness of the public and accountability for the use of police resources. Those favouring retention of the information surround the efficiency of the police service when policing events such as this and public safety.

In this instance, the balance of the public interest test favours retention of the information requested as it cannot be in the greater public interest to compromise the efficiency of the service and safety at such events.

***Number of overtime hours by officers on game-related duty;***

Your request for information has now been considered and I can advise you that Police Scotland does not hold the requested information. In terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that information is not held.

By way of explanation, information is not collated to this level. Police Scotland utilise set charge rates for such events, which are set and reviewed on behalf of Police Scotland by the Scottish Police Authority. This charge rate does not differentiate between ordinary working hours and overtime hours.

I trust that the information available is of assistance and should you require any further assistance concerning this matter please contact me on 01786 895862 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, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, Glasgow. G40 4EH or email [foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto: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. Contact details are; 'Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS', telephone 01334 464610. Following this you are entitled to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

Yours sincerely

Lorna Grieve  
Information Management  
Freedom of Information