

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2016-2529  
Date: 07 December 2016



## **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.

**My enquiry related to Westhill (AFC), Aberdeenshire. I have now discovered that the Police Scotland representative invited to attend did not attend the meeting on October 3rd. However, following this I understand that there is a potential conflict of interest at the Aberdeen based officers allocated to deal with the new stadium project may be Aberdeen FC season ticket holders and therefore have a clear interest in the project. Police Scotland can draw on staff expertise from across Scotland and it would be suitable to do so in this case.**

- 1. Can you provide information as to what process is in place to ensure that all staff involved in planning consultation processes for such developments can be objective in their recommendations?**

The [Code of Ethics](#) for Policing in Scotland sets out the standards expected of all of those who contribute to policing in Scotland, what the public can expect from us and encompasses the values of the organisation - integrity, fairness and respect - as well as our commitment to protecting human rights, anchoring our obligations under the Police Fire and Reform Act 2012. The Code of Ethics is published on the external Police Scotland Website and is freely accessible at the link above.

The Police Service of Scotland [Conduct Regulations SOP](#) sets out the Standards of Professional Behaviour that the service and the public expect of police officers. These are contained within Appendix E. A public version of this document is already published on our external website under the 'Access to Information' / 'Policies and Procedures' section and is freely accessible at the link above.

Business Interests and Secondary Employment considerations are also overseen at divisional level and incompatible activities include those which could compromise the officer's impartiality or where the public could believe that to be so. However I do not believe these considerations fall within the scope of your request.

- 2. I still require all copies of all communications, emails and notes relating to the Aberdeen Football Club proposals at Kingsford near Westhill, Aberdeenshire. I understand that the Policing Events team in Aberdeen may be able to provide these?**

In response to your request, I would advise that Police Scotland does not hold any correspondence, communications, documents or similar dating from 1st August 2016 to 10 November 2016. Therefore section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 applies: notice that information is not held.

Should you require any further assistance concerning this matter please contact Information Management – Highland & Islands Divisional Headquarters on 01463 720508 quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied 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 our actions and decisions.

Should you wish to do so, please contact us at the following address, stating what has caused your dissatisfaction and what you require us to review:

Information Management (Disclosure), 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.