

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2019-1519
Date: 4 July 2019



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.

Members of the public in Scotland who perceive that a crime has been committed against them report the matter to Police Scotland who log the incident with a four digit reference number (e.g. 2856) and the date of that report (e.g. 12-11-2018).

What is the minimum level of authority (i.e. rank) within Police Scotland required to SUSPEND (i.e. place a delay on) an investigation around a reported crime with a crime reference number (e.g. 2856 of 12-11-2018)?

What is the minimum level of authority (i.e. rank) within Police Scotland required to STOP (i.e. put an end to) an investigation around a reported crime with a crime reference number (e.g. 2856 of 12-11-2018)?

In response to these questions I would advise you that crime recording governance is set out in the Scottish Crime Recording Standard - Crime Recording and Scottish Government Counting Rules document:

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/assets/pdf/138327/232757/scrs-crime-manual-2016-final-publication-version-april-2017?view=Standard>

When a member of the public contacts Police Scotland and reports a crime, an incident is logged on the Command and Control system and given a reference number - similar to those you provide as examples.

Not all incidents go on to be logged as crimes however and details regarding this can be found in the document referenced above in section B - *Whether and When to Record*.

Where it is determined that a crime has occurred, a crime report is created on the relevant crime recording system.

Once a crime is recorded, it can be classed as 'no crime' and details regarding this can be found in the document referenced above in section E - *No Crime*.

As set out on page 33 of that document, the force Crime Registrar is the final arbiter for all 'No Crimes'. There are three regional Crime Registrars, all members of support staff, who report to the National Crime Registrar, a police Superintendent.

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To be of assistance, I would further advise you that Police Scotland is committed to the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension and prosecution of offenders and, as such, any undetected crimes will be revisited, either periodically for serious crime or as new information or evidence comes to light for any other crimes.

The length of time between a crime being reported and any subsequent detection can vary significantly from case to case for a number of reasons including the complexity of the case and the need to carry out further enquiry.

The availability and co-operation of witnesses can also be a factor as can any associated forensic or technical examinations required.

Investigations are never 'closed' and a significant proportion of undetected crimes may be very much 'live' in terms of ongoing investigation and enquiry.

The vast majority of crimes begin life as undetected and go on to become detected - there is no classification of them becoming 'closed' in the interim.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee on 01382 596657 quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.

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