



LETTER SENT BY E-MAIL ONLY

29 April 2024

2024/25-017

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

Request

Please find below our response to your correspondence dated 27 April, in which you made the following request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

I would like to make a request for information under the FOIA.

A number of different dates are circulating in the public domain concerning the formal launch date of the police investigation into the Scottish National Party's finances, which later was designated Operation Branchform. The information I am seeking is the formal launch date of the official police investigation.

1. I would like to know the date on which the initial formal police investigation began.
2. If you are not authorised to specify this date, I would like to know if the investigation had already begun on or before 2 April 2021.

Response

The Scottish Police Authority has considered your request and is able to provide the following.

The Scottish Police Authority does not hold the information requested.¹

The Authority provides governance and oversight of policing in Scotland and does not hold information on operational policing matters.

¹ This represents a notice in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - Information not held.

Information may be available by contacting Police Scotland at foi@scotland.police.uk

Police Scotland's Disclosure Log includes many [responses related to Branchform](#) which may be of interest.

Right to Review

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome, you can ask us to review our response. If you want us to carry out a review, please let us know within 40 working days. You must specify the reason for your dissatisfaction and submit your request to foi@spa.police.uk or by letter to Scottish Police Authority, 1 Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1DZ.

If you remain dissatisfied after review, you can appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months. You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by letter to Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Commissioner's decision, you can appeal to the Court of Session, only if you think the law has not been applied correctly.

This response will be posted to our [Disclosure Log](#) after seven days.

Yours faithfully

SPA Corporate Management