SCOTTISH POLICE AUTHORITY
ÙGHDARRAS POILIS NA H-ALBA

2 Clyde Gateway
French Street
Glasgow
G40 4EH

LETTER SENT BY EMAIL ONLY

18 September 2026

FOI Ref 2026/27-045

Request

Your request for information dated 24 August 2026 is copied below.

1. Does the Scottish Police Authority have a policy (procedure) as it regards to Religious street Preaching? If so what is the policy (procedure)?

2. How many Christian street preachers have arrested in within last five years?

3. Is the Scottish Police Authority aware of any hostility from any of Police Scotland officers against Christian street preachers?

4. Does Scottish Police Authority provide any guidance to Police Scotland officers as it relates to religious street preaching?

5. What is the Scottish Police Authority policy as relates to community cohesion and balancing freedom of speech, freedom of religion and freedom of peaceful assembly?

6. What is the Scottish Police Authority doing to ensure the rights of freedom of speech & Religion are being protected by Police Scotland officers?

Response

The Scottish Police Authority has considered your request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act (FOISA).

Each part of your request is copied below along with the Authority's response.

1. Does the Scottish Police Authority have a policy (procedure) as it regards to Religious street Preaching? If so what is the policy (procedure)?

2. How many Christian street preachers have arrested in within last five years?

3. Is the Scottish Police Authority aware of any hostility from any of Police Scotland officers against Christian street preachers?

4. Does Scottish Police Authority provide any guidance to Police Scotland officers as it relates to religious street preaching?

5. What is the Scottish Police Authority policy as relates to community cohesion and balancing freedom of speech, freedom of religion and freedom of peaceful assembly?

In terms of parts 1 to 5 of your request, the Authority does not hold information.[1]

By means of explanation, the Authority provides governance and oversight of policing in Scotland, and therefore does not have policies on operational policing matters such as community cohesion.[2]

Information may be available by contacting Police Scotland at foi@scotland.police.uk and you may also wish to refer to Police Scotland's Disclosure Log.

To assist, we can advise that Standard Operating Procedures relating to Public Order and Responding to Hate may be of interest and are available on Police Scotland's website.

6. What is the Scottish Police Authority doing to ensure the rights of freedom of speech & Religion are being protected by Police Scotland officers?

At the Authority's most recent Board Meeting on 30 July 2026, Police Scotland presented a paper on its approach to policing events including protests, football and large-scale events. Member questions focused on how Police Scotland ensures it balances the rights of all involved in these events, and how Police Scotland engages with communities to provide reassurance and support. This discussion is available to view on the Authority's website, see recording from 3:40:00 onwards for Item 9 Policing Events.

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

[2] Scottish Police Authority - What We Do

The minute of the Authority meeting on 30 July 2026 will be available on on the Authority's website from 21 September 2026.

Right to Review

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your request you can ask for a review within 40 working days. You must specify the reason for your dissatisfaction and submit your request by email to foi@spa.police.uk or by letter to Scottish Police Authority, 2 Clyde Gateway, French Street, Glasgow, G40 4EH.

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@foi.scot 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 working days.

Yours faithfully

Scottish Police Authority