



SCOTTISH POLICE
AUTHORITY
ÙGHDARRAS POILIS NA H-ALBA

2 Clyde Gateway
French Street
Glasgow
G40 4EH

LETTER SENT BY EMAIL ONLY

7 August 2025

FOI Ref 2025/26-045

Request

Your request for information dated 14 July 2025 is copied below.

I am requesting the following information regarding the governance of the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) between **1 January 2020 and 1 January 2025**:

1. Board Membership & Affiliations

- Names and professional backgrounds of all SPA board members during this period
- Declared interests, affiliations, or external appointments (e.g. law firms, corporations, NGOs)
- Any recorded conflicts of interest or recusals from decision-making

2. Governance & Oversight Records

- Minutes of SPA board meetings and committee sessions (including Audit, Resources, and Policing Performance Committees)
- Attendance records and voting outcomes for key decisions
- Any correspondence or reports involving Police Scotland operational oversight

3. Appointment Process & Criteria

- Details of how board members were selected or appointed
- Criteria used for selection and any public consultation or vetting procedures
- Role of Scottish Ministers or civil service in the appointment process

Response

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

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In terms of part one of your request, the Authority can confirm that some information is held.

Names, biographies and registers of interest for all [current Board Members](#) are available on the Authority's website by clicking on each Member's name.¹

For Members from 1 January 2020, who are no longer Members, names are listed below, registers of interest provided and biographies [provided](#) where held. All other biographies are no longer held as this information was input and updated directly on our website and deleted when Members stood down.²

Member name	Information held
Dr Robert Black CBE FRSE	Register of Interest
David Crichton (Vice Chair)	Register of Interest
Gordon Dewar	Register of Interest
Martyn Evans	Register of Interest Biography
Robert Hayes	Register of Interest
Grant Macrae	Register of Interest
Michelle Miller	Register of Interest Biography
Jane Ryder OBE	Register of Interest
Matt Smith OBE DL	Register of Interest
Dr Catriona Stewart	Register of Interest
Caroline Stuart	Register of Interest
Elaine Wilkinson	Register of Interest

Any conflict of interest declared by a Member is recorded in the relevant minute for Authority and committee meetings under the heading 'Declaration of Interest or connections'.¹ See our response to part two of your request regarding minutes for Authority and committee meetings for 1 January 2020 and 1 January 2025.

¹ This represents a notice in terms of Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - where information is already available, there is no need to provide an alternative right of access to it through FOISA.

² This represents a notice in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - Information not held.

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In terms of part two of your request, the Authority can confirm that some information is held.

[Minutes for public sessions of Authority and committee meetings from 2023 to date](#) are available on the Authority's website.³

Minutes for public sessions of Authority and committee meetings from 2020 to 2022 are [provided](#). However, no minutes are held for the People Committee for 2020 as it did not exist at that time, and there were no public sessions of the Legal Committee or the Exceptional Circumstances Committee in 2020, 2021 or 2022.⁴

Minutes for private sessions of Authority and committee meetings over the period are held. However, we are unable to provide this information as it would prove too costly within the context of the fee regulations.⁵ Section 20 of the Authority's [Corporate Governance Framework](#) lists circumstances in which meetings may be held in private, and papers and reports need not be published. Minutes for approximately 200 private sessions are held for the period 1 January 2025 to 1 January 2025. These minutes range from 1 to 10 pages long and would require individual review by relevant Heads of Service as well as, in some cases, the Authority's Head of Legal to identify sensitive and confidential information to be redacted. We estimate it would take on average 30 minutes to review each minute. The Authority has assessed that the £600 cost limit within the Act equates to 40 hours of work, and so, aggregated with time spent on your full request this would exceed the cost threshold.

If you narrowed the scope of your request, for example, to a particular issue over a shorter time period, this may allow us to carry out a reasonable search.

Attendance by Members at Board and committee meetings is recorded in the minute, therefore available in the minutes on our website and those provided with this response.³ Overall Membership and Attendance for Members is also recorded in the [Annual Report and Accounts](#) each year. Decisions are approved or otherwise and noted in the minute.³ No information is held regarding any votes during this time period.⁴

Correspondence and reports involving Police Scotland operational oversight are held. However, we are unable to provide these as it would prove too costly within the context of the fee regulations.⁵ One of the

³ This represents a notice in terms of Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - where information is already available, there is no need to provide an alternative right of access to it through FOISA.

⁴ This represents a notice in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - Information not held.

⁵ This represents a refusal notice in terms of Section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 – Excessive Cost of Compliance.

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Authority's core functions is to support and oversee improvement in policing. In terms of our functions, this part of your request is so broad that it applies to a significant amount of information. For example, correspondence held over the period requested would require review of more than 1500 records alone. The Authority has assessed that the £600 cost limit within the Act equates to 40 hours of work, and this would exceed the cost threshold.

As per our earlier advice, if you narrowed the scope of your request to a particular issue, over a shorter time period, this may allow us to carry out a reasonable search.

In terms of part three of your request, the Authority can confirm that some information is held.

Information packs for appointment of members and a Chair to the Board, and links to published news on the Authority's website regarding board vacancies and appointments are [provided](#). These provide some detail on board member selection and appointment.

- [Board Member Vacancies – 9 April 2025](#)
- [Appointment of SPA Chair – 28 March 2025](#)
- [Board Member Appointments – 10 June 2024](#)
- [Board Member Vacancies – 30 January 2024](#)
- [Board Member Appointments – 22 March 2021](#)
- [Appointment of SPA Chair – 18 January 2021](#)

However, we can advise that member recruitment, selection and appointment is a matter for the Public Appointments Team and Scottish Government ministers.

Information may be available by contacting Scottish Government at contactus@gov.scot

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, 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@foi.scot or by letter to Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

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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

Scottish Police Authority

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Information provided

[Registers of Interest and biographies](#)

[Audit Risk and Assurance Committee – Public minutes 2020](#)

[Audit Risk and Assurance Committee – Public minutes 2021](#)

[Audit Risk and Assurance Committee – Public minutes 2022](#)

[Authority – Public minutes 2020](#)

[Authority – Public minutes 2021](#)

[Authority – Public minutes 2022](#)

[Complaints and Conduct Committee – Public minutes 2020](#)

[Complaints and Conduct Committee – Public minutes 2021](#)

[Complaints and Conduct Committee – Public minutes 2022](#)

[Forensic Services Committee – Public minutes 2020](#)

[Forensic Services Committee – Public minutes 2021](#)

[Forensic Services Committee – Public minutes 2022](#)

[People Committee – Public minutes 2021](#)

[People Committee – Public minutes 2022](#)

[Policing Performance Committee – Public minutes 2020](#)

[Policing Performance Committee – Public minutes 2021](#)

[Policing Performance Committee – Public minutes 2022](#)

[Resources Committee – Public minutes 2020](#)

[Resources Committee – Public minutes 2021](#)

[Resources Committee – Public minutes 2022](#)

[Chair and Member recruitment information packs](#)

Please note the information provided is hosted on our website and will be deleted after 3 years in accordance with records retention policy. We recommend you download any content you may wish to refer to in the future.