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SCOTTISH POLICE
AUTHORITY
ÙGH DARRAS POILIS NA H-ALBA

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French Street
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LETTER SENT BY EMAIL ONLY

18 June 2025

FOI Ref 2025/26-031

Request

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

Due to your apparent ignorance of the effects of Dihydrocodeine on heroin addicts I've sent you a copy of my petition to the Scottish Parliament:
PE1900 Access to prescribed medication for detainees in police custody
| Scottish Parliament Website

Please note Angela Constance MSP stated that the forcing of Dihydrocodeine onto none consenting detainees was discriminatory and stated it was Police custody staff, who administered this dangerous drug. Dr Carole Hunter, who Stated to the committee that Dihydrocodeine should only be given to heroin addicts in exceptional circumstances, and only by a specialist drug clinician.bWhen asked, how a detainee should be treated if given Dihydrocodeine, she stated a specialist clinician would have to monitor and titrate the detainees. What drug treatment training do your Police custody staff, receive.

What training is require Police Scotland to give its custody staff in the storing and dispensing of controlled drugs a custody suite.

What training are staff given in the European Union Human Rights Act. Especially, I would especially be interested in Article 3,7,8 and 14. I would like a prompt accurate reply, as am sure the Ministers are reading this email will be interested and further afield in the Home Office and my MP Graham Leadbitter.

You are aware for the fact that Dihydrocodeine cause numerous painful side effects both physical and psychological on detainees, yet you persist in giving it to detainees without consent. Your staff causes seizures and abnormalities in fetuses

Your excuse that NHS Grampian is responsible for give unlicensed drugs without either prescription or consent, is irrelevant and irresponsible, Article 3 is absolute, torture is a crime, and Police Scotland by giving Dihydrocodeine commit torture.

In fact even the Scottish Government at this moment are complicit, by not intervening and stopping this illegal practice.

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Ministers to many veterans, mentally ill, and addicts have suffered from the denial of antipsychotics, sleeping medication, antidepressants, anti anxiety and methadone , whilst in custody.

Response

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

We note that this request is identical or substantially similar to previous requests you submitted.

On 23 October 2024 you submitted a request regarding training for custodial staff in dispensing medication to detainees. The Authority responded on 11 November 2024¹ confirming no information is held and directed you to authorities which may hold information and relevant publications by His Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary (HMICS).

On 11 November 2024 you asked for a review of our decision in relation to your request of 23 October, to which we responded on 20 November 2025². This upheld the original decision and provided further information to assist.

On 11 November 2024 you submitted a second related request regarding drug treatment training and training in the European Union Human Rights Act for Police custody staff. The Authority responded on 4 December 2024³ confirming no information is held and provided assistance in terms of information explaining the role of the Authority and relevant oversight.

We would also note your three recent requests, which are related, and are currently being processed and will be responded to in due course.

A Scottish public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information if it is identical or substantially similar to a previous request from the same person, unless a reasonable period has elapsed between the submission of the requests. ⁴

Given that your latest request is substantially similar to your previous requests, and no significant changes have occurred in the time since our previous responses, we are not required to comply with your latest

¹ [let-20241107-foi-response-2024-25-075.pdf](#)

² [let-20241120-foi-response-2024-25-077r.pdf](#)

³ [let-20241204-foi-response-2024-25-078.pdf](#)

⁴ This represents a notice in terms of Section 14(2) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 – Where a Scottish public authority has complied with a request for information, it is not obliged to comply with a subsequent request from the same person which is identical or substantially similar unless there has been a reasonable period of time between the making of the request complied with and the making of the subsequent request.

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request for information. The purpose of FOI is to provide a right of access to recorded information. Public authorities are not required to create information to answer a request. Therefore, our previous responses and advice remain applicable.

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.

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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