SCOTTISH POLICE AUTHORITY
ÙGHDARRAS POILIS NA H-ALBA

2 Clyde Gateway
French Street
Glasgow
G40 4EH

LETTER SENT BY EMAIL ONLY

13 May 2026

FOI Ref 2026/27-005R

Request

On 25 March 2026 you made a request for information to the Scottish Police Authority regarding notification by Police Scotland to the Scottish Qualifications Authority concerning assessment malpractice. In response to your request the Authority advised that the information held was exempt in terms of Sections 30(c)[1] and 38(1)(b)[2] of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act. Other information requested was not held.

On 17 April 2026 you asked the Authority to review this decision.

Response

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

The decision has been reviewed by an independent reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process. It is confirmed that the original decision is partially upheld for the following reasons.

Taking each question of your original request in turn:

1. A copy of the notification, report, or correspondence submitted by Police Scotland to the Scottish Qualifications Authority relating to this matter, as held by the Authority.

It is considered that the Authority holds notification of the matter by Police Scotland to the Scottish Qualifications Authority. On review, application of the Section 30(c) exemption is overturned and this information is now provided in part. As per the original decision, some

[1] Section 30(c) - where disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice substantially the effective conduct of public affairs.
[2] Section 38(1)(b) - Third party data. Disclosure would contravene the data protection principle in Article 5(1)(a) of the General Data Protection Regulation: personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject.

information is considered to be third party personal data which is exempt in terms of FOISA.[3] This exemption is absolute and does not require application of the public interest test. While you may have a legitimate interest in disclosure of this information, it is our view that those interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subjects.

2. Copies of any supporting documentation provided to the Authority in relation to that notification, including any material shared with or by Police Scotland.

As per response at part one.

3. Copies of any correspondence between the Authority and Police Scotland regarding this notification.

On review, application of the Section 30(c) exemption is upheld. The information held by the Authority in relation to this matter is for the purposes of ongoing work. The timing of any disclosure must be carefully considered to ensure that it is not damaging to the deliberation of such work and the effective conduct of public affairs.

4. Copies of any correspondence between the Authority and the Scottish Qualifications Authority regarding this matter.

On review, it is confirmed that no information is held.

5. Any internal briefing, submission, or governance document held by the Authority which:

- **summarises the issue reported to the SQA;**
- **outlines the scope or nature of the notification;**
- **records any assessment or consideration by the Authority of the matter.**

On review, it is confirmed that no information is held.

6. Any internal records or minutes held by the Authority which reference:

- **the decision to notify the SQA; and/or**
- **the Authority's awareness of, or involvement in, that notification.**

On review, it is confirmed that no information is held.

[3] This is a notice in terms of Section 38(1)(b) of FOISA - Third party data. Disclosure would contravene the data protection principle in Article 5(1)(a) of the General Data Protection Regulation: personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject.

Right to Review

If you remain dissatisfied, 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

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: FW: Potential Instance of Centre Maladministration [OFFICIAL]
Date: 29 May 2025 12:31:57
Attachments: image001.png

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon

Please see below a very quick response from SQA to our potential malpractice report. Thankfully, they are happy with how it has been handled and no further action is required.

Kind regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Qualifications and Awards Lead
Service Delivery
Quality Assurance Unit
Learning, Training & Development
Scottish Police College Tulliallan
Kincardine
Fife
FK10 4BE

Telephone/Fon: [redacted]
Mobile: [redacted]
Email/Post-d na Sgioba: [redacted]@scotland.police.uk
Website: www.scotland.police.uk
Twitter: https://twitter.com/PoliceScotland
Facebook: www.facebook.com/policescotland

Currently working from home and contactable on Email, Webex or call [redacted]

From: [redacted]@sqa.org.uk>
Sent: 29 May 2025 11:05
To: [redacted]@scotland.police.uk>
Cc: Malpractice <malpractice@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: Re: Potential Instance of Centre Maladministration [OFFICIAL]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi [redacted],

Your email has been forwarded to me by our malpractice team.

I am happy that there is no follow up action required with regards to the situation detailed below and would like to thank you and your colleagues for such a diligent and transparent approach to ensuring the integrity of the examination process.

I understand why the initial decision was made and that it was made with the best of intentions. There is clearly a robust and fair QA process within the centre, and it is reassuring to hear how thorough your processes have been. I understand that a clearer policy will now be documented by the business area to prevent any ambiguity in future cases, which is welcomed.

Overturning a decision of this nature is never easy and I'm glad to hear that the learner understood and accepted the outcome of the final decision so professionally - no doubt a reflection of how well this issue has been handled.

Thanks again,

[redacted]

[redacted]
Qualifications Manager

Qualifications Development - Humanities, Care and Services

m: [redacted] | **w:** http://www.sqa.org.uk

Scottish Qualifications Authority
The Optima Building

58 Robertson Street

GLASGOW

G2 8DQ

From: [redacted]@scotland.police.uk>

Sent: 29 May 2025 09:11

To: Malpractice <malpractice@sqa.org.uk>

Subject: Potential Instance of Centre Maladministration [OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

In accordance with policies and procedures I must report the following concern

Potential Instance of Centre Maladministration

Centre No : [redacted]

Scottish Police College

A recent issue was identified relating to one student/candidate and a final multiple choice examination conducted as part of the Certificate in Policing. Approximately 30-40 mins after completion of the examination and after scoring sheets and results were being presented to staff, it was highlighted that a student/candidate who had not achieved the minimum required score (not yet achieved) had omitted to provide a response to one question. If answered correctly this would have resulted in a pass. This was directly escalated to management whereby an immediate decision was made (deemed in the interests of fairness) that the student be allowed to answer the question they had omitted. The student was contacted and allowed to provide an answer to the omitted question. This was under supervised exam conditions with no access to learning materials and completed within half an hour of the management decision. The student was advised that they had answered the question correctly and had achieved the minimum score.

This was highlighted to the Quality Assurance unit who advised that this action was contrary to established protocols/practice whereby a missed question should be marked as incorrect. A meeting between relevant members of Quality Assurance/Qualifications function and the training delivery business area was subsequently convened. It was agreed at this meeting that the decision taken was contrary to normal practice and protocols. To ensure that the integrity of the examination process was protected it was agreed that the student should be advised that this decision was contrary to agreed procedure, and that the additional response could therefore not be considered. This would then result in a re-instatement of a not yet achieved status. The candidate was advised of this and that they would therefore be required to resit the final examination. The student accepted this outcome and agreed that this would be of benefit to their learning in the longer term.

On the basis that the initial decision was overturned and corrected, with the appropriate procedure then having been followed it has been agreed internally that no further action is necessary. However this decision will be recorded and a clearer policy documented by the business area to ensure the correct procedure is followed at all times in the future.

Regards

[redacted] (SQA Co-ordinator)

[redacted]

Qualifications and Awards Lead

Service Delivery

Quality Assurance Unit

Learning, Training & Development

Scottish Police College Tulliallan

Kincardine

Fife

FK10 4BE

Telephone/Fon: [redacted]

Email/Post-d na Sgioba: [redacted]@scotland.police.uk

Website: www.scotland.police.uk

Twitter: https://twitter.com/PoliceScotland

Facebook**:** www.facebook.com/policescotland

Currently working from home and contactable on Email, Webex or call [redacted]

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Scottish Qualifications Authority

www.sqa.org.uk
postmaster@sqa.org.uk
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