



SCOTTISH POLICE
AUTHORITY
ÙGH DARRAS POILIS NA H-ALBA

2 Clyde Gateway
French Street
Glasgow
G40 4EH

LETTER SENT BY EMAIL ONLY

23 September 2025

FOI Ref 2025/26-064

Request

We refer to your correspondence, dated 25 August 2025, which was sent to Police Scotland and copied to the Scottish Police Authority. Within your correspondence was a request for information which is copied below.

Accordingly, I request specific answers to the following:

Governance & accountability

1. What SPA decisions, minutes or directions exist regarding the policing posture towards "support for" Palestine Action since June 2025? Please provide references.
2. What risk assessment and Equality/Human Rights Impact Assessment (EqHRIA) has been completed for these operations? Who signed them off, and when?
3. How are Articles 10 and 11 ECHR tests (legality, necessity, proportionality) evidenced for arrests based solely on "inviting support" or "expressing supportive opinions", as opposed to involvement in criminal damage?

Legal basis and policy

4. What operational guidance have officers been given to distinguish between (a) peaceful political expression about Palestine/arms exports and (b) offences under sections 11–13 of the Terrorism Act 2000 relating to proscribed organisations? Please disclose any standard-operating procedures, aide-memoires or briefings.
5. How have officers been trained to avoid unlawful interference with lawful protest, consistent with Scottish and UK guidance on marches, parades and static demonstrations?

Resource allocation & opportunity cost

6. How many officer hours and what budget have been spent in Scotland on operations relating to suspected “support for” Palestine Action since 1 July 2025?
7. Over the same period, how many reports of rape/attempted rape and domestic abuse progressed to charge and to court, and how many resulted in conviction in Scotland? Please break down by division.
8. What is the current detection rate for rape and domestic-abuse-related sexual violence in each division, and how has it changed since 2023/24?

Safeguarding the public and VAWG priorities

9. In light of rising sexual-offence volumes and persistently low rape conviction rates, why is the enforcement of “support for a proscribed organisation” receiving comparable or greater resourcing than specialist rape investigation, survivor support and domestic-abuse safeguarding?
10. What steps are you taking to ensure that high-harm offences against women and children are not being de-prioritised due to protest-policing workloads?

Data and transparency

11. Please provide monthly Scottish arrest data connected to the Palestine Action proscription (by alleged offence, outcome and division), and any mutual-aid deployments requested or provided. (Note: Counter Terrorism Policing has published UK-wide arrest totals; Scotland-specific data is required for accountability.)
12. Please provide copies of any communications with the Home Office, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) and SPA concerning enforcement strategy and thresholds for arrest in Scotland.

Compliance with international-law obligations

13. What consideration has Police Scotland given to the UK’s duty to prevent genocide and avoid complicity, as articulated by the ICJ’s provisional-measures orders, when policing protest speech calling for an end to alleged atrocity crimes? [International Court of Justice+1](#)

Response

The Scottish Police Authority has considered your request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act (FOISA). Each question and the Authority's subsequent response is listed below:

1. What SPA decisions, minutes or directions exist regarding the policing posture towards "support for" Palestine Action since June 2025? Please provide references.

Police Scotland's approach to policing protests where there is support for a proscribed group such as Palestine Action, was considered and discussed with Police Scotland's leadership team at a Board meeting held in public on 21 August 2025.

The [Chief Constable's Report to this meeting](#) contains information on the Proscription of Palestine Action. The meeting was streamed live to the Authority's YouTube channel and this discussion can be viewed at the following link: [Authority Meeting – 21 August 2025](#).

A minute of the meeting and this discussion will be considered at an Authority meeting to be held on 25 September 2025. Once approved the minute will be published on the [Authority website](#).

- 2. What risk assessment and Equality/Human Rights Impact Assessment (EqHRIA) has been completed for these operations? Who signed them off, and when?**
- 3. How are Articles 10 and 11 ECHR tests (legality, necessity, proportionality) evidenced for arrests based solely on "inviting support" or "expressing supportive opinions", as opposed to involvement in criminal damage?**
- 4. What operational guidance have officers been given to distinguish between (a) peaceful political expression about Palestine/arms exports and (b) offences under sections 11–13 of the Terrorism Act 2000 relating to proscribed organisations? Please disclose any standard-operating procedures, aide-memoires or briefings.**
- 5. How have officers been trained to avoid unlawful interference with lawful protest, consistent with Scottish and UK guidance on marches, parades and static demonstrations?**
- 6. How many officer hours and what budget have been spent in Scotland on operations relating to suspected "support for"**

Palestine Action since 1 July 2025?

In relation to the above questions, the Authority does not hold information.¹ Information may be available from Police Scotland. You may also wish to refer to [Police Scotland's Disclosure Log](#) and results returned using the search term '[Palestine](#)'.

7. Over the same period, how many reports of rape/attempted rape and domestic abuse progressed to charge and to court, and how many resulted in conviction in Scotland? Please break down by division.

The Authority does not hold information.¹ Information may be available from Police Scotland and/or the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service.

To assist, the Scottish Government publishes a summary of offences dealt with by courts, sentencing outcomes and characteristics of convicted offenders. [The most recent bulletin was published in December 2024.](#)

8. What is the current detection rate for rape and domestic-abuse-related sexual violence in each division, and how has it changed since 2023/24?

The Authority does not hold information.¹ Information may be available from Police Scotland. To assist, [Police Scotland publishes quarterly management information relating to crimes reported to them](#). The information published provides data by division and local authority area.

9. In light of rising sexual-offence volumes and persistently low rape conviction rates, why is the enforcement of "support for a proscribed organisation" receiving comparable or greater resourcing than specialist rape investigation, survivor support and domestic-abuse safeguarding?

10. What steps are you taking to ensure that high-harm offences against women and children are not being de-prioritised due to protest-policing workloads?

11. Please provide monthly Scottish arrest data connected to the Palestine Action proscription (by alleged offence, outcome and division), and any mutual-aid deployments requested or provided. (Note: Counter Terrorism Policing has published UK-wide arrest totals; Scotland-specific data is required for

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accountability.)

12. Please provide copies of any communications with the Home Office, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) and SPA concerning enforcement strategy and thresholds for arrest in Scotland.

13. What consideration has Police Scotland given to the UK's duty to prevent genocide and avoid complicity, as articulated by the ICJ's provisional-measures orders, when policing protest speech calling for an end to alleged atrocity crimes?

[International Court of Justice+1](#)

In relation to the above questions, the Authority does not hold information.² Information may be available from Police Scotland.

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 days.

Yours faithfully

Scottish Police Authority

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