



## LETTER SENT BY EMAIL ONLY

20 August 2025

FOI Ref 2025/26-054

### Request

Your request for information dated 4 August 2025 is copied below.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I request the following information:

- 1) When did the Scottish Government know that NHS Grampian and other Scottish healthcare trusts not have controlled drugs licenses for over a decade, and NHS Grampian also did not have one for HMP Grampian for at least 6 years. Yet still gave prisoners access to methadone?
- 2) Why does NHS Grampian not audit their controlled held drugs in police custody? Is this a Scottish Act of Parliament.
- 3) Why does the Scottish Government allow NHS Grampian to store Dihydrocodeine in police custody and give it without consent, or prescriptions to detainees.
- 4) Which authorities are responsible for monitor and enforcing controlled drugs licenses. Why were the missing licenses not identified.
- 5) Why does the Scottish Government allow controlled drugs accountable officers (CDAOs) in NHS Grampian and other Scottish healthcare trusts not set up local intelligence networks ( LINS) in the regions. Does Scotland have an exemption from these regulations.
- 6) Why does Police Scotland believes that the role of controlled drugs liaison officers are not statutory despite:

**" The 2006 Health Act introduced various measures to improve public health and NHS operations, including a ban on smoking in public places, increased age for tobacco sales, and enhanced regulation of controlled drugs. It also established Controlled Drugs Liaison Officers (CDLOs) to link police and health authorities in managing controlled drugs part 3 section c 1 s 17."**

Why, does Police Scotland believe it is exempt from the regulations.

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- 7) Who is responsible for establishing LINs and how often should they meet.
- 8) Is the CDLO an important element in the LIN.
- 9) Why did Police Scotland tell SPICe, that they had an unofficial CDLO (DS Craig Bookless) who as since taken up another position, but Police Scotland are looking to create a CDLO soon. What is the Scottish Government view of the status of CDLOs do they exist or not, are the voluntary or official post.

### Response

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

The Authority does not hold information.<sup>1</sup>

In terms of question six regarding Controlled Drugs Liaison Officers, we would refer to the advice in our previous response<sup>2</sup> to you which pointed to [Section 17\(1\) of the Health Act 2006](#). This sets out the legal basis of the role of Controlled Drugs Accountable Officer (CDAO) with no mention of Controlled Drug Liaison Officers. Again, we also note that provision of medical care within police custody facilities is the responsibility of the NHS.

We would usually advise if there is an authority who may be able to assist you. However, we can see from your communication that you have submitted the same request to those authorities who are best placed to do this.

However, as you may be aware, FOISA provides a right of access to recorded information only. Questions seeking the creation of comment or opinion are not considered valid in terms of [section 8 of the Act](#). The Scottish Information Commissioner provides useful [guidance](#) on asking for recorded information from an authority.

### 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](mailto: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

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<sup>1</sup> This represents a notice in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - Information not held.

<sup>2</sup> [let-20250627-foi-response-2025-26-024.pdf](#)

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email to [enquiries@foi.scot](mailto: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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