



## **Freedom of Information Response**

**Our reference:** FOI 23-0259

**Responded to:** 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Please list all instances of prayer vigils held by pro-life groups near hospitals or clinics in Edinburgh or Glasgow 01 Jan 2022 and 31 December 2022 in or around the specific areas below:**

### **Edinburgh:**

**1 - On Chalmers Street, opposite the Chalmers Sexual Health Centre, 2A Chalmers Street, Edinburgh, EH3 9HQ**

**2 - On Old Dalkeith Road, opposite the New Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, EH16 4SA**

### **Glasgow:**

**A - On Castle Street, between the junctions with Springburn Road and St James' Road, opposite Glasgow Royal Infirmary, G4 0SF**

**B - On Hardgate Road in the area of the junction with Langlands Drive, opposite the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, G51 4TF**

**C – On Sandyford Place, in the area of the Sandyford Clinic, 6 Sandyford Place, Glasgow, G3 7NB**

**Please note my request relates only to instances, not incidents.**

**Put simply, I'm asking if Police Scotland has knowledge of any prayer vigils events at these locations between the dates specified. A sample answer might be "a vigil took place at Chalmers Street from 10am – 12 noon on" or "a vigil takes place every Tuesday morning at"**

**If it is helpful, this request is similar to a previous FOI, your reference IM-FOI-2022-0877**

I'm afraid we are unable to provide a comprehensive response to this request given the parameters specified.

## OFFICIAL

To explain, there is no requirement for individuals/ groups to notify Police Scotland of their intention to protest.

Police Scotland would therefore generally be unaware of the existence of any protest unless it was otherwise notified to us - usually by way of an incident report whether from a member of the public or a protestor, depending on the circumstances.

In that sense, I cannot answer no information held to your request as we frequently provide data regarding *incidents* outside various sexual health clinics and hospitals in response to FOI requests.

I have included a copy of an FOI response researched recently which you will see includes data (for 2020 - 2022) for the premises included in your request.

It therefore follows that at those dates/ times at least, Police Scotland 'had knowledge of' protests at the various premises.

Beyond that, there is no obvious location where other relevant information may be stored.

It's possible that protests took place that Police Scotland were entirely unaware of.

It's also possible that perhaps an officer noted the presence of a protest in their notebook whilst on patrol, or a community officer received an email saying a protest was intended to take place etc.

Unfortunately there is no means by which unstructured data of that nature can be searched and so in FOI terms, my only alternative is to deem that part of your request - for corporate knowledge *not* in the form of incident reports - to be too wide in scope for research and section 12 of the Act therefore applies.

I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

As such, and in terms of section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

## OFFICIAL

If you require any further assistance please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](#) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](#), by [email](#) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.