

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

[REDACTED]
Address for correspondence
[REDACTED]

06 August 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

HMICS Freedom of Information Request - FOI.26.00017

I refer to your request dated 21 July 2026, under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA), for the following information:

"This request concerns any involvement by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland in assessing or receiving assurance about Police Scotland's response to the criminal investigation and subsequent Learning Review concerning Family C.

I seek recorded information held between 1 November 2023 and the date of this request.

A. HMICS awareness and briefings Any briefing, report, correspondence, submission, meeting note or notification received by HMICS concerning: the Family C criminal investigation; the criminal convictions; the Family C Learning Review; findings concerning Police Scotland; concerns regarding the interview programme; Police Scotland's post-case learning; the joint COPFS–Police Scotland debrief. Any record showing when HMICS first became aware of Family C and from which organisation. Any briefing or assurance provided to HMICS by: Police Scotland; the Scottish Police Authority; COPFS; the Care Inspectorate; Glasgow Child Protection Committee; Glasgow Chief Officers Public Protection Group; the Scottish Government. Any record showing whether HMICS was informed that: a Gold command structure had been established; children underwent repeated or intensive investigative interviews; professionals raised concerns about the cumulative impact on the children; the COPFS–Police Scotland debrief was not available to the Learning Review before completion; one Police Scotland participant identified for the Learning Review did not participate.

B. Joint COPFS–Police Scotland debrief Any request made by HMICS for the: terms of reference; final report; learning summary; recommendations; action plan; implementation tracker, arising from the joint COPFS–Police Scotland debrief or post-case review. Any such document received by HMICS. Any correspondence or record showing whether HMICS: reviewed the debrief; assessed the adequacy of its methodology; considered whether it was sufficiently independent; challenged a conclusion; requested additional evidence; sought confirmation that actions had been completed. Any record identifying findings or actions from the debrief relating to: repeated interviewing; strategic and senior oversight; communication with COPFS; multi-agency challenge; expert witnesses; child welfare and trauma; the use of interview evidence in court. Any record explaining why HMICS did not request or assess the debrief, where no such assessment occurred. I seek a recorded explanation only if one is held; I am not asking HMICS to create new information.

C. Police Scotland's evidence and assurance Any assurance statement, action plan, progress report or implementation evidence provided by Police Scotland concerning Family C. Any record showing what remedial action Police Scotland said it had taken concerning: command and governance of complex child-abuse investigations; authorisation and review of repeated interviews; cumulative welfare assessments; recording and escalating professional disagreement; communication between police, social work, health, carers and COPFS; the Scottish Child Interview Model; independent advocacy; support for officers and other staff. Any HMICS assessment of whether those actions were: sufficient; implemented; independently verified; capable of preventing recurrence; national or limited to Greater Glasgow Division. Any evidence supplied to demonstrate that changes had affected operational practice rather than only policy or training. Any record identifying actions that remained: incomplete; delayed; disputed; unverified; dependent on COPFS or another organisation.

D. Independence and accountability Any record assessing whether the Family C Learning Review provided adequate scrutiny of Police Scotland's: operational decision-making; Gold command arrangements; evidence supplied to the reviewer; practitioner participation; relationship with COPFS; internal management oversight. Any record considering whether Police Scotland's involvement in supplying evidence, analysing events, checking factual accuracy or agreeing learning created an actual or perceived independence issue. Any record showing whether HMICS requested or considered: the evidence inventory; Police Scotland's disclosure schedule; records not supplied to the Learning Review; the participant list; the factual-accuracy response; the amendment or issue log; conflict-of-interest or recusal records; the Police Scotland action plan. Any record distinguishing responsibility between Police Scotland and COPFS for the direction, number or continuation of child interviews. Any concern that responsibility could not be determined because the Learning Review lacked compulsory evidence or investigatory powers.

E. Inspection or assurance action Any consideration by HMICS of conducting: a thematic inspection; a case-specific assurance review; an inspection of complex child-abuse investigation governance; an inspection of Police Scotland's working relationship with COPFS; follow-up scrutiny of Greater Glasgow Division; joint scrutiny with the Care Inspectorate or another inspectorate. Any scoping note, option appraisal, recommendation, decision or correspondence concerning such work. Any recorded reason for deciding not to undertake further HMICS scrutiny. Any record showing whether HMICS made or considered making a recommendation to: the Chief Constable; the Scottish Police Authority; Scottish Ministers; COPFS; another scrutiny body. Any record considering whether unresolved Family C issues require: an independent process-assurance review; external audit; ministerial intervention; a non-statutory inquiry; a statutory public inquiry.

F. Scottish Police Authority and ministerial reporting Any correspondence or report concerning Family C exchanged between HMICS and the Scottish Police Authority. Any record showing whether Family C or the joint debrief was raised with: the SPA Board; an SPA committee; the Cabinet Secretary for Justice; the Minister for Victims and Community Safety; another Scottish Minister or Scottish Government directorate. Any advice given about whether the existing Learning Review and internal police processes provide sufficient public assurance. Scope and redaction I am not seeking: criminal-investigation files; witness statements; children's interviews; police intelligence; legal advice concerning the prosecution; identifying information concerning children, family members, victims or private individuals; personal disciplinary or occupational-health information. I seek governance, scrutiny, assurance and policy information.

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I am content for personal and operationally sensitive details to be redacted. Where a document is withheld in full, please provide, where possible: its title; date; status; originating and receiving organisations; general subject; the exemption relied upon. Should the request exceed the applicable cost limit, please prioritise: records concerning the joint debrief; Police Scotland's assurance and action plan; HMICS assessments of Police Scotland's response; consideration of further inspection or assurance; correspondence with the SPA and Scottish Government; records concerning further independent scrutiny or inquiry."

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) has carried out searches for information falling within the scope of your request.

HMICS does not hold any information covered by your request. Accordingly, in terms of section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I must give notice that the information requested is not held by HMICS.

HMICS holds no recorded information relating to the matters described in your request, including the categories of information set out in Parts A to F of the request.

HMICS has not undertaken any inspection, assurance activity, review, assessment, correspondence, reporting or other work relating to the matters described in your request and therefore does not hold any recorded information within the scope of the request.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which we have dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review. Your request should be made within 40 working days of this response and should explain why you are dissatisfied. Please send your request for review to:

hmic@hmic.gov.scot

If you are not content with the outcome of the review, you have the right to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner for a decision. The Commissioner's contact details are:

Scottish Information Commissioner

Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
Fife
KY16 9DS
Tel: 01334 464 610

www.itspublicknowledge.info

Yours Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

