

**NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED**

██████████  
Address for correspondence  
██████████

11<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear ██████████

**HMICS Freedom of Information Request - FOI.26.00004**

I refer to your request dated 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026, under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA), for the following information:

*"I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).*

*My request relates to HMICS's knowledge of grooming gangs, particularly those matching the profile outlined in the Casey Audit.*

*For clarity, this refers to the characteristics and patterns of organised child sexual exploitation by grooming gangs as detailed in Casey's audit into group based child exploitation in 2025.*

*Please provide the following information:*

- 1. All records, reports, or internal documents held by HMICS that detail its knowledge or assessments of grooming gangs operating in Scotland, specifically those exhibiting patterns consistent with the Casey profile (e.g., organized group based exploitation involving coercion, manipulation, and targeting of vulnerable children, involvement of Asylum Seekers, involvement of taxis, and the profile of predominantly Pakistani Grooming Gangs).*
- 2. Details of any concerns raised to HMICS regarding grooming gangs in Scotland, including the number of such concerns received since January 1, 2014 (the year of formal discussion about Rotherham as applied to Glasgow involving senior Public body and Police officials), the nature of those concerns, the sources (e.g., police forces, public reports, or other agencies), and any actions taken in response.*
- 3. Any evidence, data, or intelligence held by HMICS indicating the presence or absence of grooming gangs matching the Casey profile in Scotland, including but not limited to statistics on related investigations, prosecutions, or inspections of Scottish police forces.*
- 4. Copies of any correspondence, briefings, or communications between HMICS and Police Scotland (or other relevant bodies) regarding grooming gangs in Scotland, redacted as necessary under FOISA exemptions.*

*If any part of this request is likely to exceed the cost limit under Section 12 of FOISA, please provide advice and assistance on how I might refine it to bring it within the limit, as required by Section 15.*

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*I would prefer to receive the information electronically via email. If you require any further clarification, please contact me promptly.*

*I look forward to your response within the statutory 20 working days.”*

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) is an independent scrutiny body of both Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority (SPA). Our role was reaffirmed by the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, which gives HMICS wide ranging powers to look into the “state, effectiveness and efficiency” of both Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority.

HMICS is currently jointly conducting a national review which will gather evidence to support Scottish Government Ministers’ considerations of whether there should be a future public inquiry into group-based child sexual abuse and exploitation.

[Formal request to jointly lead National Review of Group Based Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation | HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland](#)

We have considered each part of your request in turn.

Questions 1, 2 and 3

HMICS does not hold records, reports, assessments, intelligence, correspondence, or other information relating to:

- grooming gangs operating in Scotland,
- assessments or profiles of grooming gangs (including those described in your request as consistent with the “Casey profile”),
- concerns raised to HMICS regarding grooming gangs,
- evidence indicating the presence or absence of grooming gangs in Scotland.

Accordingly, this response constitutes formal notice under section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 that the information requested is not held by HMICS.

HMICS does not undertake operational policing activity, does not hold intelligence relating to criminal investigations and does not receive or retain information concerning specific allegations or patterns of criminal behaviour unless this forms part of a completed inspection or formal review within our statutory remit.

HMICS holds no correspondence, briefings or communications between HMICS and Police Scotland regarding grooming gangs in Scotland. We are jointly conducting a review with the Care Inspectorate, Healthcare Improvement Scotland and HM Inspectorate of Education in Scotland as advised above. The overview and scope for this review can be accessed using the following link:

[Information for partnerships overview and scope.pdf](#)

The most recent update on our website for this review is available using the following link:

[National review of group-based child sexual abuse and exploitation | HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland](#)

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The review currently being undertaken by HMICS has recently commenced and is not at a stage that it will review ongoing police operations, nor does it consider the response to Baroness Casey's Review. That work remains ongoing within Police Scotland and will be subject to peer review through the National Crime Agency (NCA) National Review process.

If you wish to obtain further background information on the scrutiny of police operations, you may find it helpful to consult the [Scottish Police Authority](#) website, including papers and minutes from recent committees or board meetings.

I trust this information is satisfactory for you, however, if you are unhappy with this response you may ask us to carry out an internal review, by writing to the address shown on this letterhead or by emailing [HMIC@hmic.gov.scot](mailto:HMIC@hmic.gov.scot). Your request should explain why you wish a review to be carried out and should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter. We will then reply within 20 working days of receipt of any such letter.

You then have a right of appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner if you are dissatisfied with our internal review. The Commissioners website has a guide containing the full details for this process ([www.itspublicknowledge.info](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info)) or they can be contacted via the following:

**Scottish Information Commissioner**

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

Yours Sincerely,

