HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland
1st Floor, St Andrew's House,
Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG
T: 0131 244 5610/5614
@hmics

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

[redacted]
Address for correspondence
[redacted]

15 October 2026

Dear [redacted]

HMICS Freedom of Information Request - FOI.26.00021

I refer to your request dated 18 September 2026, under the freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA), for the following information:

> *"Under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I request the following information in relation to the HMICS report concerning police complaints and conduct matters whose publication was delayed prior to release. https://www.hmics.scot/publications/hmics-assurance-review-of-conduct-and-discipline/ Please provide:*
>
> *1. All correspondence, including emails, letters, Teams messages and meeting records, between HMICS and: o Police Scotland; o the Scottish Police Authority; o the Scottish Government; relating to: o the timing or scheduling of publication; o any request to delay, defer or postpone publication; o concerns regarding the findings, conclusions, recommendations or wording of the report.*
>
> *2. Copies of all comments, observations, factual accuracy submissions, representations, challenges or suggested amendments received from Police Scotland, the Scottish Police Authority or any other external body after circulation of draft versions of the report.*
>
> *3. Copies of HMICS responses to any such comments, observations, challenges or suggested amendments.*
>
> *4. Any version histories, tracked changes records, editorial notes, amendment logs or similar documents recording alterations made between circulation of a draft report and publication of the final report.*
>
> *5. Records identifying: o each amendment made following circulation of the draft report; o the reason for the amendment; and o whether the amendment arose from a request or representation made by an external organisation.*
>
> *6. Any internal correspondence within HMICS discussing: o whether publication should be delayed; o reasons for any delay; o engagement with Police Scotland or the Scottish Police Authority about the report; o concerns regarding legal, operational or reputational issues arising from publication.*
>
> *7. Any meeting minutes, notes, attendance records or diary entries relating to meetings or discussions where publication timing, factual accuracy issues or proposed amendments were discussed.*

8. Any records explaining the reason or reasons why the report was not published on its originally intended publication date.

9. Any correspondence or records referring to: o "factual accuracy checking"; o "quality assurance"; o "clearance"; o "sign-off"; o "publication readiness"; o "stakeholder engagement"; o "draft report"; in relation to this report. Please provide a schedule listing every alteration made to the draft report after it was first shared externally for comment, indicating whether the alteration was: (a) a factual correction; (b) a drafting or stylistic amendment; (c) a substantive amendment to findings, conclusions or recommendations; and whether the change followed a representation from Police Scotland, the Scottish Police Authority or another organisation."

1. Please see attachments 2 through 4 and 7_1 to 8_2. These are official letters from Police Scotland and Scottish Police Authority to HMICS regarding the request to delay publication and HMICS's response to this request to all stakeholders, including the Scottish Government.
2. Please see attachment 1 that reflects all the Factual Accuracy Check comments that HMICS received after issuing the Factual Accuracy copy of the report.
3. Attachment 1 reflects HMICS's comments and decisions on stakeholders' Factual Accuracy comments.
4. Attachment 1 reflects the changes that HMICS made from the Factual Accuracy report to the published product. No other changes have been made to the report after Factual Accuracy changes.
5. Attachment 1 reflects the reasons for amending the Factual Accuracy copy of the report.
6. Please see attachment 5 and 6. These are the Chief Inspector's file notes in respect of the delay and the implication of this decision. Also, his message to the HMICS team in respect of the decision to delay the publication.
7. HMICS does not hold any meeting notes/minutes/attendance records/diary entries where publication timing, factual accuracy issues or proposed amendments were discussed. Therefore, an exemption under section 17(1) of FOISA (Notice that information is not held) applies to your question.
8. Please see attachments 9 and 10. These are correspondence from the Chief Inspector to Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority requesting an update on the matters that concluded to the publication delay. Attachments 11_1 to 12_2 reflect the stakeholder's responses.
9. Attachment 1 reflects all the changes that have been made.

Some information has been redacted from the disclosed documents. These redactions relate to the names and contact details of staff below the grade of Deputy Director. This information has been withheld under section 38(1)(b) - Personal information, of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, as it constitutes personal data and disclosure would contravene the data protection principles. Additionally, there are some information redacted under section 30(1) - Prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs, of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

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. 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) 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,

[redacted]