

REDACTED



Scottish Legal Aid Board

Thistle House

91 Haymarket Terrace

Edinburgh

EH12 5HE

Switchboard: 0131 226 7061

www.slab.org.uk

Reference Number: FOI2024/00031

4 December 2024

Dear REDACTED

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

Thank you for your letter received on 1 November. I would like to take this opportunity to apologise to you for two things. Firstly, you should have received an acknowledgement from us upon receipt of your freedom of information request, and secondly, I am sorry that your response is late.

You requested the following ;

- 1. Under FOI I require to know how many lawyers got legal aid to take on corrupt Police Scotland cops in the last 5 years?***

In the past 5 years (from 2019-20 to 2023-24 inclusive) there have been 54 applications for legal aid for cases against Police Scotland.

However none of these applications mention the term "corruption".

It may be of interest to you that 20 of these applications are for reparation (personal injury or other damages) or discrimination. These cover a variety of allegations including assault, negligence, malicious prosecution, racial discrimination.

Of these 20 applications there have been 5 grants.

2. *Under FOI how many lawyers put in for legal aid to take on Police Scotland corruption but never got it in the last 5 years?*

Please see response above.

3. *Why cant the Law Society of Scotland get me a lawyer to take on corrupt Police Scotland under FOI?*

SLAB does not hold this information therefore we must provide you with a Section 17 Refusal Notice.

You will need to contact the Law Society of Scotland to answer your question.

4. *FOI for Solicitor General or Scotland's equivalent to that post contact details.*

SLAB does not hold this information.

We are refusing this request under Section 25 (1) Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under section 1(1)

This information is already available via the Scottish Government website
<https://www.parliament.scot/msps/ministers-and-law-officers/law-officers>

Solicitor General
The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

5. *Do the police have to obey a court order?*

SLAB does not hold this information therefore we must provide you with a Section 17 Refusal Notice.

6. *Who do I go to for corruption on COPFS as Police Scotland are involved in it under FOI?*

SLAB does not hold this information therefore we must serve you with a Section 17 Refusal Notice.

It may be of interest that the Crown Office have a Complaints Against the Police "CAPS" Unit and where an accused person has made a complaint against officers involved in his/her prosecution, that is marked as a "CAP" case and is dealt with by a dedicated PF Depute.

The Crown Office may be able to supply statistics on the operation of the CAPS unit.

7. *Are Scottish solicitors fearful of handling cases against Scottish Police? Why is that?*

SLAB does not hold any information on this therefore we must provide you with a Section 17 Refusal Notice.

Your right to request a review of decision

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which we have handled your request for information, you may ask us to review our decision. A request that we review our decision should be made in writing within 40 working days of the date of this letter or, if we have not responded to your request, within 40 days of the date by which we should have responded (that would normally be 20 days after receiving your request).

We will review our decision and tell you the outcome within 20 working days of receiving your request.

If, having done so, you remain dissatisfied, you may ask the Scottish Information Commissioner to review our decision.

You must submit your request in writing to the Commissioner within 6 months of first receiving notice about the matter you are complaining about.

The Commissioner will not deal with an application unless SLAB's review process has been used and exhausted - in other words, until you have asked us to review our decision and you are not satisfied with our response or have not received a response within 20 working days of your request.

The Commissioner's contact details are:

The Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
Fife
KY16 9DS

Telephone: 01334 464610

Website: www.foi.scot

E-mail: enquiries@foi.scot

For details on how to appeal please go to their website www.foi.scot/contactus

Kind Regards,

REDACTED

Corporate Support

Need communication support?

Translation & Interpretation, Braille, Larger formats, BSL and more.

If you need us to change how we communicate with you, please let us know by sending details to communicationsupport@slab.org.uk. Where possible, we will consider all reasonable adjustments and requests