



**Scottish  
Ambulance  
Service**

University National NHS Board



# Freedom of Information Request

**5<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

## Question

“By way of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I would like to request a document concerning first responder provision in Orkney.

On Tuesday, June 11, 2024, the SAS press office confirmed to me that a "training and development plan" exists concerning first responders in Orkney's North Isles. I was told that it "has been active since August last year."

Please can I request a copy of this plan.

I would also like to request any and all correspondence sent and received by SAS (including attachments and appendices) concerning first responder provision in Orkney's isles from over the past two years.”

## Answer

The Scottish Ambulance Service does hold a training and development plan, this is an internal document that contains sensitive information recorded for different locations and teams.

We have carefully considered your request and the Scottish Ambulance Service is applying Section 30(c) prejudice substantially the effective conduct of public affairs; Section 39(1) Health and Safety and Section 38(2A)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act to this document.

These exemptions are subject to the ‘public interest test’. When applying the ‘public interest test’ we consider if it is in the interest of the public for this document to be released and not if the document would be of interest to the public.

Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this request, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemptions. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemptions. We believe there is a greater public interest in withholding the Training and Development Plan as to disclose would do harm in jeopardising the essential role that the Scottish Ambulance service provides when supporting the First Responders not only in Orkney, but of the wider Scottish community of First Responders.

We would maintain this with Section 39(1), we have considered that the public interest falls in favour of maintaining the exemption due to the perceived significance of threat that disclosure could cause to Service delivery and the health and safety of the public and our staff due to the nature of information held within the plan.



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An exemption under section 38(1)(b) of FOISA states: information which relates to a living individual other than the applicant for the information will be exempt where the disclosure of the information the rights of an individual under the Data Protection Act 2018, UKGDPR This exemption is subject to the 'public interest test'. The Scottish Ambulance service has a duty, under the Data Protection Act to avoid directly or indirectly revealing any personal details.

The Scottish Ambulance Service remains committed to providing training and equipment to community first responder and other responder schemes on the ferry linked isles in Orkney. This training will meet nationally agreed clinical standards set out by the Scottish Ambulance Service ensuring community first responders have appropriate training and equipment to respond as an initial response to emergency calls. The Scottish Ambulance Service will always send an ambulance response by road and ferry or air to back up community responders unless there is a GP or Nurse on island who requests that the ambulance response can be stood down as the patient can be safely looked after on the island. The training and development plan being rolled out and delivered by the Scottish Ambulance Service across the ferry linked islands has been adjusted to meet the availability of community first responders on each island.

In relation to your request for any correspondence the Scottish Ambulance Service holds in relation to the Orkney First Responders, the Scottish Ambulance Service has applied section 30 and section 38(1)(b).

The Orkney first responders' scheme is a multi-agency operation and disclosing any information held could substantially prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs with those agencies. Due to the number of responders in Orkney, their information could also become identifiable if this correspondence is shared.

The Scottish Ambulance Service has released statements through their Press office with information that can be shared and not be identifiable on an individual basis.

All other documents are part of the meetings attended by Scottish Ambulance Service and is minuted by Orkney Council and is therefore information that is not held by the Scottish Ambulance Service to share.