



**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

Our Ref: 26-1597  
Your Ref: 22637690  
Telephone: 8207 5590



**Re: Freedom of Information Act application**

In reference to your application made pursuant to the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (FOI Act), access was sought to:

*Part A: A detailed document (date of incident, location of incident, summary of incident) relating to the first 20 weapons searches conducted by SAPOL where a weapon was located during the search during 2025. Part B: Incident reports and AV material such as photographs, CCTV footage, body worn camera footage, mobile video footage, audio recordings relating to the first 5 of those incidents where footage is held mentioned in Part A”.*

I also refer to a telephone conversation on 4 February 2026 with one of my staff, which the scope of your request was clarified as follows:

*“A list of the first 20 Metal Detector Searches/Incidents from January 2025, this list to be of the first 20 incidents for 2025. Out of those incidents you require further documents such as the incident report/photographs/Body Worn Video (BWV) for the first 5 incidents that have been finalised”.*

A discussion was also had in relation to the content of the documents, as the documents contain third party personal information. South Australia Police (SAPOL) has noted your requirement for third party personal information to be excluded from the documents provided therefore SAPOL has marked the relevant redactions as Out of Scope.

Under the FOI Act, an agency has 30 days plus any acquired extension of time to respond to a freedom of information request. As SAPOL did not respond to your request within the time frame required, it is deemed to have refused you access to all documents relevant to your application. However, I have determined to process the request as if the statutory time frame had been met.



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SAPOL has located documents that fall within the scope of your request. The documents are numbered and described in the following schedule. The schedule contains the details of the determination in compliance with section 23 of the FOI Act.

<b>SA POLICE - FREEDOM OF INFORMATION UNIT SCHEDULE</b>				
<b>No.</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Act</b>	<b>Reason</b>
1	List of Metal Detector Searches 2025 – First 20 Incidents	Full Release		Out of Scope: The redacted text within some documents falls outside the scope of your application. This includes information, images, and audio relating to the personal affairs of individuals other than yourself.
2	Occurrence Report No. SAP2500004888			
3	Occurrence Report No. SAP2500024930			
4	Occurrence Report No. SAP2500036869			
5	Occurrence Report No. SAP2500097995			
6	Occurrence Report No. SAP2500217522			
7	4 x Photographs (Occurrence Report No. SAP2500004888)			
8	4 x Photographs (Occurrence Report No. SAP2500024930)			
9	1 x Photograph (Occurrence Report No. SAP2500036869)			
10	10 x Photographs (Occurrence Report No. SAP2500217522)			
11	BWV Clip 1 of PD76549 CUTTING (Occurrence Report No. SAP2500004888)	Access Refused	Clauses: 4(2)(a)(iii) 4(2)(b)  Clause: 6(1)	
12	BWV Clip 2 of PD76549 CUTTING (Occurrence Report No. SAP2500024930)			
13	BWV Clip 1 of PD76033 NANKIVAL (Occurrence Report No. SAP2500036869)			

14	BWV Clip 1 of PD14943 HAYTER (Occurrence Report No. SAP2500097995)			
15	BWV Clip 1 of PD76610 HEALY (Occurrence Report No. SAP2500217522)			

## JUSTIFICATION AND CLAUSES FOR REFUSAL

### Clause 4(2)(a)(iii) and Clause 4(2)(b) of Schedule 1 of the FOI Act which states:

*“A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to prejudice the effectiveness of any lawful method or procedure for preventing, detecting, investigating or dealing with any contravention or possible contravention of the law (including any revenue law) and it contains matter the disclosure of which would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.”*

The footage depicts operational methods used by police in searching, securing individuals, and locating evidence specifically weapons on suspects. These methods form part of established investigative practices and are not publicly disclosed. Release of this footage would enable individuals to analyse these procedures and gain insight into potential search limitations, which could be used to evade detection or defeat police processes. This would risk compromising the effectiveness of future operations and may endanger police officers, other individuals, and public safety more broadly.

### Factors in favour of disclosure:

- Promotes transparency and accountability in the exercise of police powers, particularly in public settings.
- May assist in assessing the proportionality and lawfulness of police conduct during searches or arrests.

### Factors against disclosure:

- Reveals operational methodologies that could be exploited to avoid detection or apprehension.
- Risks undermining the effectiveness of future search and arrest activities.
- May compromise the integrity of evidence collection and operational planning.
- May increase the risk of harm to individuals and the general public.

While public oversight of police conduct is an important consideration, there are alternative statutory mechanisms available to facilitate review of police actions in both individual cases and at a systemic level. In this instance, the disclosure of the footage would prejudice law enforcement methodology and operational effectiveness. On balance, the public interest in maintaining the confidentiality of police procedures outweighs the interest in disclosure.

### Clause 6(1) of Schedule 1 of the FOI Act which states:

*“A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead).”*

The footage contains personal information relating to individuals other than the applicant. Its release would constitute an unreasonable disclosure of the personal affairs of those persons. As the information relates to third parties and cannot be practicably edited to protect their identities, access cannot be granted.

Enquiries with SAPOL's Performance Monitoring Unit established that, at the time the data was sourced, several incidents indicated that a weapon had been located; however, not all entries were supported by a corresponding Occurrence Report number.

The data in relation to document 1 is accurate as of 4 March 2026. There is an entry showing a total of four (4) weapons recorded as having been located between 1/1/2025 and 35/2/2025. These represent four separate events; however, in the absence of related Occurrence Report numbers, no further information can be provided regarding these incidents. On this basis, twenty incidents have been included.

Please note that for document 4 (Occurrence Report No. SAP2500036869), no photographs exist in relation to this incident.

### **Your rights to review**

If you are dissatisfied with this determination, you are entitled to exercise your right of internal review in accordance with section 29(1) of the FOI Act by completing a PD362 Application for Internal Review form, which can be downloaded from <https://www.police.sa.gov.au/services-and-events/freedom-of-information>, or upon request at your nearest police station. Alternatively, an application may be made in writing to the SAPOL Freedom of Information Unit or by submitting an online application [SA.GOV.AU - Make a freedom of information request](https://www.sa.gov.au). This application must be lodged within 30 (calendar) days after you receive this letter. The fee of \$43.30 (if applicable) can be paid in person at any South Australian police station or by posting a money order.

### **Disclosure Log**

In accordance with the requirements of [Premier and Cabinet Circular 45](#) this determination, together with any documents released to you will be published on the [SAPOL Disclosure Log](#). If you disagree with publication, please advise the undersigned in writing by 11 June 2026.

Yours sincerely,



Senior Sergeant Christian Ainley  
**Freedom of Information Unit**  
(Accredited Freedom of Information Officer)

7 May 2026