

Reference Number: FOI/029/25

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Information requested:

CCTV footage and/or photographic evidence relating to the area surrounding:

- The State Hospital

Specifically, I am requesting the following:

- CCTV footage and/or photographic evidence from all public cameras that capture the rear of the Islay Building;
- Covering the date 27 February 2025
- Whether this footage is still available and if not, the retention period policy for such recordings.

Response:

The State Hospital operates approximately 120 CCTV cameras across its grounds. Preparing footage from a single camera typically requires around 30 minutes of staff time. Therefore, processing footage from all cameras would require approximately:

120 cameras × 30 minutes = 60 hours
60 hours × £15/hour = £900

As this exceeds the £600 cost limit set under Section 12 of FOISA, we are unable to comply with the request in full due to cost grounds.

CCTV footage is generally retained for **30 days**, after which it is automatically deleted unless preserved for investigative or operational purposes.

Advice and Guidance:

Although the request has been exempted on cost grounds, we can confirm that limited footage from 27 February 2025 capturing the rear of the Islay Building is held.

Please note:

- The footage contains personal data, which is exempt from disclosure under:
 - Section 38(1)(a) – if the requester is the data subject.
 - Section 38(1)(b) – if the individuals captured have no expectation of public disclosure.

These are absolute exemptions and do not require a public interest test.

- Disclosure of identifiable images of staff may pose a health and safety risk and therefore may be exempt under Section 39(1).
- Footage containing security-sensitive information may also be exempt under:
 - Section 35(1)(f) & (i) – substantial prejudice to the maintenance of security and good order in an institution where persons are lawfully detained.

If you are seeking access to footage in which your client is personally identifiable, we recommend submitting a Subject Access Request (SAR) under data protection legislation, which allows for the disclosure of personal data to the data subject.