

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2021-0052
Date: 27 January 2022



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

For the period between 01/04/2013 and 31/07/2018 please provide;

1. The number of uniformed officers (Police Constables) paid on-call allowance who were posted in island postings in N Division If any payments were made I would like to know when they commenced.

2. The number of Detective Constable Officers who were paid on-call allowance during this same time period who were performing the role of, again in relation to island postings in N Division?

3. The number of uniformed Police Constables who applied for on call allowance during this time frame in island postings in N Division - how many of those applications were accepted and how many were rejected?

4. The number of Detective Constables who applied for on call allowance during this time frame in island postings in N Division, how many of those applications were accepted and how many were rejected?

For ease of response Q1 – Q4 have been answered together.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am afraid that Police Scotland does not hold this information. In terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that information is not held.

By way of explanation, Police Scotland inherited a diverse set of departments and recording processes which over time were restructured to conform to a single national model. The national procedures relating to the personnel management process were finalised in N Division in June 2019.

A check of our systems has revealed no trace of any information relating to the period prior to this that would assist you, i.e. between 01/04/2013 and 31/07/2018.

To be of some assistance I have been advised it *may* be possible to provide you with an alternative dataset which would reflect the total amount paid to the corresponding number of officers who made such claims in the requested period.

Please note this would not provide the number of instances - only the total monies paid in each month/year.

If this information would be of interest please submit a new FOI request to reflect this.

5. When on-call allowance commenced being paid to uniformed police officers in the Western Isles.

Initial checks provides that information held on the Service's personnel management system SCOPE details the first On Call Allowance claim in N Division was submitted on 24/06/2019.

6. If on-call allowance is currently paid to uniformed police officers in Shetland, Orkney or Skye, or any other islands in N Division that do not form part of the Western Isles?

Please be advised this information is publicly available within the Allowances and Expenses SOP.

As such, in terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought. Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

- (a) states that it holds the information,
- (b) states that it is claiming an exemption,
- (c) specifies the exemption in question and
- (d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at Section 25(1) of the Act - information otherwise accessible:

"Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under Section 1(1) is exempt information"

The information you are seeking is available on the Police Scotland website via the following link:

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/assets/pdf/151934/589148/allowances-and-expenses-officers-redacted>

If you require further assistance or are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to

OFFICIAL

foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.