

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2635
Date: 12th 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.

- 1. Please provide the Dedicated Ward Officer (or neighbourhood policing equivalent for your force) abstraction rate, as a yearly average percentage, for every year 2010-present.**

In terms of Section 17 of the Act, I can confirm that some of the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

By way of explanation, the information from 2010 until 2015 is no longer held. This is due to Police Scotland's record retention policy which can be viewed using the link below.

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/policies-and-procedures/standard-operating-procedures/standard-operating-procedures-p-s/>

With respect to the data requested from April 2016 onwards, please see the table below. I can advise that the data provided relates to Police Scotland's Community Policing teams.

Community Policing Team Abstractions	%
2016/17	22.1
2017/18	18.6
2018/19	14.7
2019/20	16.9
2020/21	14.3
2021/22	14.2

- 2. What percentage of 999 calls to your Force are regarding a mental health-related incident? Please provide this data for every calendar year since 2010, up to and including the current year to date.**

In response to your request, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with all of the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

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As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

By way of explanation, there is no straightforward method to extract the information you require for the years 2010 until 05 February 2018.

As you may be aware Police Scotland was formed on 01 April 2013. The legacy policing areas used a variety of command and control databases. After the formation of Police Scotland work began to transfer all legacy policing areas to STORM as a national command and control database. This was a complex undertaking, and each legacy area was transferred to the database over a significant period of time. The operation was completed in February 2018.

Due to variations in what was recorded by each legacy incident recording system as well as differing search capabilities, the only way to obtain accurate figures between 2010 and February 2018 would be for each incident during that period to be manually reviewed to see if it matched the criteria of your request. Police Scotland record thousands of incidents on a daily basis and so millions of records would need to be checked for the period requested. This is an exercise that would greatly exceed the cost threshold set out within the Act.

Police Scotland have assessed that the £600 cost limit within the Act equates to 40 hours of work and so this part of your request would breach the cost threshold.

However, I have provided the information requested from 06 February 2018 until 31 December 2022 in the table below. Please note the necessary caveats provided.

Recorded Storm Incidents and Storm Incidents With Mental Health Related Disposal Codes, (Recorded as '999'), Police Scotland ^{1,2,3,4}					
Period: 6th February 2018 - 31st December 2022 (Calendar Years)					
Storm Incident	2018*	2019	2020	2021	2022
All Storm Incidents	355016	450278	447843	482551	529640
Mental Health Related	4564	7113	9019	10993	12230
% Mental Health Related	1.286	1.580	2.014	2.278	2.309

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 5th January 2023.

1. The data was extracted using the incident's raised date and by selecting incidents which included "PW13 Mental Health Related" in any of the disposal codes.
2. Out of Force incidents have been removed; duplicate and linked incidents have been included.
3. Please note, all Police Scotland Divisions were using Storm Unity to record Storm Incidents by 6th February 2018, and using the Disposal Code 'PW-13'.
4. Please note, Storm Incidents with '999' or '999 MOB' within the Incident Source have been selected.

3. What percentage of police time from your force is spent dealing with mental health-related incidents? Please provide this data for every calendar year since 2010, up to and including the current year to date.

OFFICIAL

In terms of Section 17 of the Act, I can confirm that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

By way of explanation I can advise that the information requested is not recorded.

4. How many police constables employed by your force have been deployed in operational support roles in each year since 2019?

In response to your question I must advise that all police officers can be tasked/deployed to complete any support role they are trained for as such I can provide officer headcount totals for the years requested. Please see the table below.

	Officer Headcount
2018/19	17,479
2019/20	17,657
2020/21	17,497
2021/22	17,007

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management quoting the reference number given.

If you 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 foi@scotland.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.