

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2019-0589
Date: 2 April 2019



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.

The number of detective vacancies there are in Police Scotland.

There are 204 various Detective rank posts that are currently vacant as at 19th March 2019 this includes true vacancies and temporary unoccupied vacancies. I would ask that you note that this figures change daily due to long term absences, annual leave and resourcing requirements.

The number of detectives in Police Scotland at the start of each financial year from 2013-14 to present.

The table below provides the full-time equivalent (FTE) of Police Officers who are deployed in the various Detective roles, Detective Chief Superintendent, Detective Superintendent, Detective Chief Inspector, Detective Inspector, Detective Sergeant and Detective Constables.

	Detective Police Officer FTE
2013/2014	3,152.561
2014/2015	3,283.115
2015/2016	3,367.574
2016/2017	3,368.679
2017/2018	3,481.489
2018 – 31 st December 2018	3,533.592

The number of digital devices that are currently waiting to be examined by Police Scotland.

In accordance with Sections 12(1) (Excessive cost of compliance) and 16(4) (Refusal of request) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (the Act), this letter represents a Refusal Notice.

By way of explanation, digital devices seized in the course of criminal enquires are not submitted to the Cybercrime Unit until such time as the reporting officer or enquiry team have requested the examination take place or an instruction given by Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service.

Digital devices are held by all Production stores throughout Scotland. Accordingly, to provide an accurate figure each area would have to individually collate this information and

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such a task would take in excess of 40 hours prescribed by the Scottish Ministers in terms of the legislation.

The measure that Police Scotland uses to gauge its ability to find people wanted in connection with crimes, and Police Scotland's performance against that measure.

I am unsure exactly what information you are seeking and would be obliged if you could provide a more detailed explanation of the information you are requesting?

In general terms I can advise that Police Scotland use detection rates for the purposes of measuring performance in detecting crime and thus finding perpetrators of criminality.

Detection rates are available in the public domain through our quarterly management information reports available here: <https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/our-performance/>

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Glasgow on 01786 895862 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.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.

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