| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1609  Responded to: 24 June 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## The number of data breach incidents the force has had in the last three years (Broken down by financial years 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25)

2022/2023 - 461

2023/2024 - 461

2024/2025 - 476

## Of those, how many were cyber incidents? (Broken down by years as above)

2022/2023 - 0

2023/2024 - 0

2024/2025 – 0

## 1b) Can these be broken down by year and by incident type? E.g. instances where data was emailed to the incorrect recipient or cases of loss/theft of devices containing personal data etc.? (Broken down by years as above)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| INCIDENT TYPE | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 |
| Account Sharing | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Airwave Incident | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Email Misuse | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| ID Cards/ Keys/ Warrants: Lost/ Missing/ Stolen/ Not Returned | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| Loss or Theft of Technology Asset | 15 | 10 | 4 |
| Paper Documents | 19 | 19 | 23 |
| Procedural | 19 | 11 | 4 |
| System Misuse | 13 | 11 | 27 |
| Unauthorised Access to Systems or Data | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Unauthorised Disclosure | 390 | 405 | 404 |
| Unauthorised Equipment | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Unplanned Outage | 0 | 0 | 1 |

## 2. How many compensation claims have been brought against the force for data breaches in the last three years (Broken down by financial years 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25)

## 2a) Of those, how many were settled with compensation and how many were refused?

## 2b) How much has the force paid out in compensation for data breach claims in the last three years? (Broken down by years as above)

I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested. Therefore, 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, there is no specific heading to search for a data breach. These would be saved as an employer’s liability claim, public liability claim, etc.  Hundreds of these claims are received each year and to identify this information, every file would need to be checked to determine whether it can be classified as a data breach.  This would take me around ten minutes to do for each file and would cost well in excess of the £600 and 40 hours prescribed by the Scottish Ministers under the Act.

If you require any further assistance, please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.