

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2717
Date: 4th January 2023



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. Since 1 July 2021, up to the date of your response to this request, please state how many times police officers attended domestic properties in your force area where an energy supplier or their agent (debt collectors and such) was forcing entry. These are known to courts as utility warrants or warrants of entry, but may be known under a different name to police forces. I am not interested in warrants on behalf of water suppliers, only gas or electric.**
- 2. Please state how many of these calls for attendance were made by the energy supplier or their agents.**
- 3. How many of these calls were made by energy suppliers or their agents for attendance in advance of the warrant being used (ie for officers to arrive at the scene before the energy company or debt agent tried to force entry using the warrant), rather than in response to an ongoing public order incident at the property after they had tried to enter the property?**
- 4. Please state if possible how many of these warrants were for the installation of a prepayment gas or electricity meter.**
- 5. If possible, please provide a list of each attendance, with the date and the name of the energy company or debt agent that made the attendance request.**
- 6. Please state whether these attendances were counted as “special police services” and were provided for a charge, pursuant to the power in s.25(1) of the Police Act 1996.**
- 7. If so, please state how much was paid to the force for attending these incidents during this period.**

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

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.

OFFICIAL

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, whilst incidents are categorised, there is no specific category which relates to the type of incident referred to in your request.

Any such incident would be recorded as '*assist other agency*' and all incidents recorded under this category would have to be individually examined to determine whether they were relevant to your request.

This is an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

I'm afraid that we can see no way in which your request can be meaningfully refined to bring it within the cost limit set out in the Act.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management Dundee, 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, Dalmarock, 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.