| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-1079Responded to: 29 April 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Please provide the following data broken down by rank (DC, DS, DI etc.).

## How many officers worked in Specialist Crime Division (SCD) but were geographically based in A Division (Aberdeen and surrounding area) each year from 2013 - 2025.

## How many officers worked in SCD but were geographically based in D Division (Dundee and surrounding area) each year from 2013 - 2025.

## How many officers worked in SCD but were geographically based in N Division (Inverness and surrounding area) each year from 2013 - 2025.

## How many officers worked in SCD but were geographically based in the East Command Area each year between 2013 - 2025.

## How many officers worked in SCD but were geographically based in the West Command Area each year between 2013 - 2025.

The above requested information is considered to be exempt in terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (the Act). Section 16 of the Act requires Police Scotland 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.

Where information is considered to be exempt, this letter serves as a Refusal Notice that information is held and an explanation of the appropriate exemption is provided.

The exemptions that I consider to be applicable to the information requested by you are:

**Section 35(1) (a) & (b) – Law Enforcement**

The information requested is exempt, as its disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice substantially the prevention or detection of crime and apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

If the details of Police Scotland’s resource numbers disclosed, experience has shown that it would allow those intent on committing crime or causing disorder to gauge the likelihood of detection or to take measures to negate the likelihood of detection. It would allow criminals to plan how best to engage or occupy existing police resources in an effort to maximise their chances of committing serious crime, therefore harming the efficient and effective conduct of the service.

This is a non-absolute exemption and requires the application of the public interest test.

**Section 39(1) – Health, safety and the environment**

Disclosure of the information requested would prove extremely useful for criminals and those intent on wrongdoing. It would allow them to estimate the level of resources within the Police and would assist them in circumventing the efficient and effective provision of law enforcement by the police service, which in turn would have an adverse impact on the safety of the officers involved and the general public.

This would increase the risk to the personal safety of individuals and also the safety of the police officers responding to incidents.

This is a non-absolute exemption and requires the application of the public interest test.

**Public Interest Test**

As you will be aware, the two exemptions detailed above are non-absolute and require the application of the public interest test. Public awareness would favour a disclosure as it would contribute to the public debate surrounding the use and deployment of police resources.

I would, however, contend that the efficient/effective conduct of the service and public safety favours retention of the information as it cannot be in the public interest to release information that would prejudice law enforcement or which is likely to have an adverse impact upon public safety.

On balance I would contend that the public interest in disclosing the information is outweighed by that in maintaining the exemptions listed, as, it is doubtful if it can ever be in the public interest to disclose information which would prejudice the prevention or detection of crime or, which would jeopardise the delivery of operational policing and the safety of officers and police staff.

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 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 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.