| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-2374Responded to: 29 August 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## With reference to seizure of firearms. May I ask you to provide the statistics for 2023 - 31st July 2025:

## The number of certificate holders that have had their firearms taken by Police Scotland.

I interpret your question to be how many firearms were seized by Police Scotland.

Police Scotland do not have any legal power to seize firearms from certificate holders unless under the power of a warrant from the Procurator Fiscal.

The enquiries of Police Scotland would involve the certificate holder voluntarily handing over their firearms. In total we have 832 occasions where guns have been removed or stored remotely. These are removed for a large variety of reasons and not just criminal matters.  We remove guns on a voluntary basis for many medical matters which is entirely supportive and guns are returned when additional enquiries have been made and engagement with GP if necessary.

## Which number of those are for drivers that are reported or awaiting to be reported to the Procurator Fiscal

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

By way of explanation, to identify this we would manually need to look at each of the 832 cases to ascertain if related to a driving matter. This exercise would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

## The grounds for the seizure of the firearms for both reported or other individuals.

Police Scotland do not have any legal power to seize firearms from certificate holders unless under the power of a warrant from The Procurator Fiscal.

To be of assistance, of the 832 firearms which were handed over voluntarily, 93 were removed for medical reasons to allow suitability enquiry and 42 have since had their guns returned to them. 567 were removed due to some form of Police incident and 191 of these have been returned.  The remainder have been removed for reasons such as “third party report”, “other”, “renewal”

## Of those seized for mental health and or welfare grounds, how many of those have enquiries been made of the certificate holders GP

Unfortunately, again I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

By way of explanation, to identify this we would manually need to look at each of the 832 cases to ascertain if mental health or welfare grounds were present. This exercise would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

## The number of cases disposed of.

1339 cases have been concluded and dealt with in total for this period. Please note that not all had firearms removed from the applicant.

## The number of certificate holders to which firearms have been returned.

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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.