

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2231
Date: 10th November 2022



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. The number of special constables (a) employed and (b) deployed by Police Scotland in (a) 2020-21 and (b) 2021-22 (to date)**
- 2. The number of new special constables successfully trained by Police Scotland in (a) 2020-21 and (b) 2021-22 (to date)**

Having considered your request, I must first of all advise you that Special Constables are Volunteers and might not be considered 'Employed' in all interpretations of that word.

Special Constables deploy under the supervision of Police Scotland, who have Health & Safety statutory obligations whether they are regular paid officer, civilian staff or volunteer Special Constables.

With respect to 'Successfully Trained', please be advised that **all** volunteer Special Constables undergo training BEFORE being sworn in as warranted Special Constables and being deployed.

There are a number of valid reasons why a Special Constable may not deploy. This can be through pregnancy/maternity, ill health, career demands and many other personal circumstances.

| | Employed | Deployed |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|
| 2020/2021 | 461 | 431 |
| 2021/2022 | 453 | 379 |
| 2022/2023 (Nov 22) | 428 | 341 |

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

OFFICIAL

foi@scotland.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.