| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1971  Responded to: 15 August 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Can you please advise of the number of police witness citations and recitations issued for each year of the last five years.

Table 1 below details police witness citations and recitations received each year for the last five years.

Figures are based the date the citation was received and don’t necessarily relate to the year of the citation date itself.

Included are all citations regardless of whether they were countermanded.

If the original citation was earlier than the reporting period, then it has not been counted, but any subsequent recitations within the reporting period have been counted.

Table 1

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Total citations** | **Original citations** | **Recites** |
| 2020 | 214177 | 131775 | 82402 |
| 2021 | 309589 | 143008 | 166581 |
| 2022 | 335003 | 145183 | 189820 |
| 2023 | 294086 | 136764 | 157322 |
| 2024 | 268084 | 128321 | 139763 |

## Can you please advise of the additional costs incurred for witnesses being cited or recited to attend court.

The total costs incurred for witnesses being cited or recited to attend court for the period of 2020 - 2025 is £12,856,013.93, as detailed below in table 2.

Table 2

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Financial year** | **Total cost (£)** |
| 2020/21 | 985,628.51 |
| 2021/22 | 2,188,174.94 |
| 2022/23 | 3,127,258.86 |
| 2023/24 | 3,355,065.27 |
| 2024/25 | 3,199,886.38 |

## Can you please advise of the number of police witnesses who have been cited or recited to attend court on days of annual leave and the costs incurred by Police Scotland for each year of the last five years.

Table 3 below details police witnesses who have been cited or recited to attend court on days of annual leave.

Figures are based the date the citation was received and don’t necessarily relate to the year of the citation date itself.

Table 3

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Individuals affected** | **Days affected** |
| 2020 | 2694 | 3890 |
| 2021 | 3768 | 5980 |
| 2022 | 4831 | 9488 |
| 2023 | 4583 | 8635 |
| 2024 | 3965 | 7204 |

The total cost incurred for witnesses being cited or recited to attend court for the period of 2020 – 2025 during annual leave is £9,071,020.42, as detailed in table 4 below.

Table 4

| **Financial year** | **Total cost (£)** |
| --- | --- |
| 2020/21 | 700,797.13 |
| 2021/22 | 1,569,729.31 |
| 2022/23 | 2,302,046.79 |
| 2023/24 | 2,300,998.33 |
| 2024/25 | 2,197,448.86 |

## In 2020 additional holiday courts were introduced in Scotland. Can you please advise of the additional costs incurred by Police Scotland to service these additional courts including Christmas, New Year and Easter for each year of the last five years.

Police Scotland have no specific search marker to establish separate costs incurred to cover holiday court. These costs are included within the figures provided for question 2.

To accurately collate such data, an assessment of all 2020/21 court appearances would be required to confirm which occurred during holiday periods.

As such, 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.

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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) 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.