

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2021-2854
Date: 20 January 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.

We would like to request the following data under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

- 1. For each of the years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, how many pieces of evidence went missing from your force?**
- 2. Of those pieces missing, where possible, please can you give us a breakdown of how they pertain to each home office crime code designation.**

For example (20 MISSING PIECES - 5 – Violence against a person, 10 – Sexual Offences, 5 - Theft)

Having considered your request in terms of the above Act, 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. 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, the information requested is not held by Police Scotland in a format which would be manageably retrievable within the time and cost threshold. To obtain the information sought would require an individual to review all recorded crimes for the period requested. To illustrate the extent of this task for Recorded Crime Groups 1 to 5 for Q2 2020/21 alone there were 117,753 recorded crimes. If we estimate that it would take 5 minutes to review each file this would total over 9,800 hours and at a cost of £15 per hour this task would exceed the cost and timescales set by ministers.

By way of assistance these statistics can be found on the Our Performance page of the Police Scotland website via the following link

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/our-performance/>

OFFICIAL

Should you require any further assistance concerning this matter please contact Information Management – Glasgow at foiglasgow@scotland.pnn.police.uk 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.pnn.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.