| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-2445Responded to: 08 August 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**1. The total number of counterfeit football shirts seized by your force each year from 2019 to the most recent year available.**

**2. (If readily available) The estimated total value (£) of these seized shirts for each year.**

**3. The number of arrests each year relating to the sale or distribution of counterfeit football shirts, or counterfeit football merchandise, if shirts are not recorded separately.**

**For consistency:**

**- Please provide figures for full calendar years (Jan–Dec) where possible. If only financial year data is available, please specify this.**

**- If your systems do not separately record “football shirts,” please confirm this and provide data for the broader category of counterfeit sportswear instead.**

**- Please confirm whether seizure counts represent individual shirts or seizure incidents/operations, and whether value estimates are based on retail or street value.**

In response to question 1 and 2, unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process these parts of 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, there are no incident classifications that directly align to the type of incident(s) described in your request.

As such only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to individually examine every incident report and crime report relating to fraud, for the time period requested - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

In response to question 3, I can advise the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 removed the separate concepts of arrest and detention and replaced them with a power of arrest without warrant - where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting a person has committed, or is committing, an offence.

When a person is arrested, a statement of arrest should be read over as soon as reasonably practicable, and details recorded in the arresting officer’s notebook.

A person is ‘Not Officially Accused’ (a suspect) when arrested *and* *not* cautioned and charged. They are ‘Officially Accused’ once arrested *and* cautioned and charged.

If conveyed to a police station, the arrested person will have their details recorded in our National Custody System.

There are situations however whereby a person must be released from police custody prior to their arrival at a police station - effectively they are ‘de-arrested’ - where the reasonable grounds for suspicion no longer exist. In those circumstances, the details of an arrested person are not held electronically.

As a result, we are unfortunately unable to collate comprehensivearrest data, as case by case assessment of all officer notebooks would be required - in addition to the partialarrest data held in the National Custody System.

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

For the reasons outlined above, Police Scotland do not collate data on arrests.

Instead, data is compiled and published based on recorded and detected crimes - [Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/).

Detected crimes are those where an accused has been identified and there exists a sufficiency of evidence under Scots Law to justify consideration of criminal proceedings.

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.