

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2386
Date: 07 December 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.

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. In order to assist you with this request, I am outlining my query as specifically as possible.

1. For each year, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 to date, the total number of firearms seized by the force.

In terms of Sections 12(1) (Excessive cost of compliance) and 16(4) (Refusal of request) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (the Act), this letter represents a Refusal Notice.

By way of explanation, we would need to individually look at every incident involving a firearm to identify if this firearm was seized.

If I was to use the example that it took 10 minutes to check each file then calculations show that for 2019 there were 705 recorded incidents, it would take approximately 117 hours, and would cost approximately £1762.50 to carry out this task. This is in excess of the £600 prescribed by the Scottish Ministers under the Act.

2. For each year, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 to date, the total number of incidents involving a firearm logged by the force.

I have included at the bottom of this letter tables providing the number of firearm incidents for years requested.

For each year, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 to date, the total number of 3D printed firearms seized by the force.

For each year, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 to date, the total number of 3D printed firearms components (e.g. parts of the weapon but not the whole gun), seized by the force.

For each year, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 to date, the total number of incidents involving a 3D printed firearm logged by the force.

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I can advise that Police Scotland does not hold the above requested information. In terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that information is not held.

By way of explanation, this information would be held by Scottish Police Authority (SPA) who are separate organisation to Police Scotland. I suggest you may wish to re-direct your request to the SPA. For ease, I have provided you a link to the appropriate address;

www.spa.police.uk

***The number of individuals arrested on: a. suspicion of firearm offences,
b. suspicion of firearm offences relating to a 3D printed weapon.***

The police in Scotland have the power to arrest an individual where there is sufficient evidence to support a charge against them: either for a common law crime or for a statutory offence where the statute empowers the police to arrest any person contravening its provisions.

However, there is no mandatory recording process in relation to arrests as not all offenders are routinely arrested when they commit crimes and some may be subject of a report to the Procurator Fiscal without ever having been arrested.

As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek - arrest statistics - is not held by Police

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management – Glasgow at foiglasgow@scotland.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.

Table 1.

Title: Recorded STORM Incidents - Final Incident Type - 'PS-34' - Firearms Incident, Police Scotland.¹

Period: 1st January 2019 to 31st October 2022, Calendar Years.

Final Incident Type	2019	2020	2021	2022*
FIREARMS INCIDENT	1965	1968	1777	1823

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 23/11/2022.

1. The data was extracted using the incident's raised date and by using Final Service Code 'PS34' (Firearms Incident).

Table 2.

Title: Selected Recorded Crimes involving Firearms, Police Scotland.

Period: 1st January 2019 to 31st October 2022, Calendar Years

Crime	2019	2020	2021	2022*
Possess a firearm w/i to endanger life etc.	107	110	88	71
Reckless conduct with firearms	39	38	45	24
Firearms, Miscellaneous Offences	559	435	367	246
Total	705	583	500	341

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 23/11/2022.

1. The data was extracted using the crime's raised date and by using SGJD codes '101101' - Possess a firearm with intent to endanger life, '403302' - Reckless conduct with a Firearm, '504305' - Possession of a firearm in prison, '605500' - Firearms, Miscellaneous Offences / Possession of an Offensive Weapon and '607000' - Pawnbrokers, Dealers, Firearm Offences.