

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1846
Date: 21 September 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.

- **The number of drug related deaths in Perth and Kinross in 2019,2020,2021 and 2022 so far.**
- **The number of drug deaths specifically from Heroin in Perth and Kinross in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 so far.**

Please be advised that information with regard to drug related deaths is publicly available.

As such, in terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought. Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

- (a) states that it holds the information,
- (b) states that it is claiming an exemption,
- (c) specifies the exemption in question and
- (d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at Section 25(1) of the Act - information otherwise accessible:

"Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under Section 1(1) is exempt information"

The information you are seeking is available on the National Records of Scotland website, via the following link: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/vital-events/deaths/drug-related-deaths-in-scotland>

Please be advised that table C3 has the council area/drug type breakdown.

Suspected drug related deaths can be found on the Scottish Government website:
[Suspected drug deaths in Scotland: January to March 2022 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/suspected-drug-deaths-in-scotland-january-to-march-2022/pages/2-introduction.aspx)

- **The number of drug users who were receiving the government help payment in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 in Perth and Kinross.**

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Police Scotland do not hold data regarding payments individuals receive. As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee at foidundee@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.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.

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