| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1433  Responded to: 11 June 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

1. **The number of police officers who were assaulted on duty in 2021, 2022, 2023 and the first five months of 2024.**

Table 1 confirms the number of Police Officers assaulted each year between January 2021 and May 2024. These figures are based on all assaults reported to our People and Development Team.

*Table 1 - Police Officers assaulted - January 2021 - May 2024*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Number of Officers Assaulted** |
| 2021 | 4,236 |
| 2022 | 4,866 |
| 2023 | 5,224 |
| 2024 | 1,289 |

1. **The number of police officers who suffered serious injuries after being assaulted on duty in 2021, 2022, 2023 and the first five months of 2024.**

Table 2 confirms the number of Police Officers who suffered serious injuries, as a result of being assaulted.

With reference to a serious injury, we have taken this to be those reported to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR).

Please note data for 2024 only includes the first 3 months.

Data for April and May 2024 still requires internal quality assurance and validation and is therefore not held in terms of section 17 of the Act.

*Table 2 - Serious injuries as a result of being assaulted - Police Officer - January 2021 - March 2024*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Number of Officers who suffered serious injuries** |
| 2021 | 41 |
| 2022 | 28 |
| 2023 | 30 |
| 2024 | 5 |

1. **The number of police officers who suffered minor injuries after being assaulted on duty in 2021, 2022, 2023 and the first five months of 2024.**

Table 3 confirmsthe number of Police Officers who suffered minor injuries, as a result of being assaulted. This data relates to all assaults that resulted in injury to the Officer but not reported to HSE as a RIDDOR.

Data for April and May 2024 still requires internal quality assurance and validation and is therefore not held in terms of section 17 of the Act.

*Table 3 - Minor injuries as a result of being assaulted - Police Officer - January 2021 - March 2024*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Number of Officers who suffered minor injuries** |
| 2021 | 1,186 |
| 2022 | 1,202 |
| 2023 | 1,284 |
| 2024 | 300 |

**4. The number of police officers who required sick leave after being assaulted on duty in 2021, 2022, 2023 and the first five months of 2024**

To recover this data a manual check would be required to review all accident reports relating to assaults and compare them with our absence records to ascertain if the assault resulted in absence and then confirm with Police Scotland’s System to Co-ordination Personnel and Establishment (SCOPE) database.

Unfortunately, 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.