| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-0441  Responded to: 23 April 2025 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## How many prisoners have been put on level 4 observations whilst in Police Custody since 2018, broken down by each year. How this breaks down across the East, West and North Areas over each year?

I have included a table at the bottom of this letter which provides the information requested above.

## What has been the recorded justification for putting these persons on level 4 observations, i.e. refused a search, violent, refusing to answer care questions etc. On how many occasions has the risk assessment for this decision been completed and recorded?

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.

By way of explanation, each individual National Custody System record would have to be reviewed to identify this information.

## In all cases of level 4 observations, on how many occasions has it resulted in an officer being assaulted, whether injury was caused or not.

Again 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.

By way of explanation, we would need to produce a Health and Safety report from our Scope system and then cross refer with the statistics obtained in question 1 and 2.

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](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) 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.

East Custodies by observation level

| **Observation level** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** | **Total** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 15 minutes | 21 | 10 | 7 | 7 | 10 | 7 | 62 |
| 30 minutes | 1,704 | 1,929 | 1,439 | 1,409 | 1,423 | 1,262 | 9,166 |
| 1 hour | 16,088 | 21,133 | 19,363 | 21,710 | 22,988 | 23,710 | 12,4992 |
| Constant observation | 664 | 1052 | 685 | 696 | 803 | 561 | 4,461 |

North Custodies by observation level

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Observation level** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** | **Total** |
| 15 minutes | 56 | 62 | 51 | 79 | 92 | 87 | 427 |
| 30 minutes | 2,615 | 3,584 | 2,910 | 3,689 | 3,659 | 3,339 | 19,796 |
| 1 hour | 11,418 | 14,195 | 12,375 | 14,737 | 16,319 | 16,742 | 85,786 |
| Constant observation | 470 | 1,377 | 1,825 | 775 | 683 | 588 | 5,718 |

West Custodies by observation level

| **Observation level** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** | **Total** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 15 minutes | 38 | 66 | 60 | 64 | 73 | 38 | 339 |
| 30 minutes | 825 | 1,162 | 1,360 | 1,390 | 1,616 | 1,220 | 7,573 |
| 1 hour | 22,532 | 31,833 | 29,822 | 37,436 | 44,046 | 48,804 | 214.473 |
| Constant observation | 8,536 | 10,998 | 9,091 | 7,389 | 5,240 | 1,820 | 515,894 |

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information.  
Data was extracted from Police Scotland systems and are correct as at 23 April 2025.  
Data was extracted using the Custody start date  
Statistics exclude Sequential custody records, rejected custodies and custody types of S23, Voluntary Attendees and Transits