| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1168  Responded to: 22 May 2024 |
| --- | --- |

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

## I would like make a request of statistics relating to missing persons. I do not wish to seek any personal or identifying information. There are 5 parts to my request. If any of these parts are deemed to expensive to action please do not action it. Instead leave that specific part out of the request.

## Each question is relating to G and Q division between 2021 and 2023 and each question relates to incidents involving those aged 18 years old or more.

## 1. Could you provide the number of missing persons reports that were made to G and Q division between 2021 and 2023.

G Division 6636

Q Division 6978

## 2. Could you provide the shortest, longest and average time for a missing person to be found. From initial report to person being located.

## 3. Could you provide the number of missing person reports that involved dog units or helicopter searches or drone searches and specify which specialised unit was involved in how many incidents.

In accordance with 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, to enable us to answer these we would need to conduct a manual trawl of all missing person reports to identify how long they were missing.

To explain, in total this would be 13,614 reports. I would estimate it would take approximately 5 mins per incident to complete this task which would take approximately 1,134 hours and cost £17,017.50. This task would therefore take well in excess of the 40 hour and £600 cost limit prescribed by the Scottish Ministers.

However, to be of assistance the average time for a missing person report during the aforementioned time frame was 87.71 hours

## 4. Could you provide the average number of hours officers spend attached to a missing persons incident.

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, we are unable to determine how long individual officers spend attached to each investigation. However, I can advise police resources remain invested in the investigation for the entirety of time a person is missing.

## 5. Could you provide the number of missing person incidents which officers did not attend due to it being classed as low risk.

Police Scotland attend all reports of missing persons.  The risk assessment is completed and risk level determined when officers attend the incident.

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.