| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1292  Responded to: 02 July 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1. Please tell me, with reference to each of the last four financial years (21/22) (22/23) (23/24) and (24/25), the number of:

## a) Substance misuse tests undertaken at random on your force's officers (not civilian staff).

Substance misuse testing is undertaken when information/ intelligence is received regarding potential substance misuse (with cause testing) or as part of the recruitment process. Tests are never conducted at random.

## b) Substance misuse tests administered with cause on your force's officers (not civilian staff)

*Table 1: With Cause Substance Misuse tests completed, by financial year*

| **Category** | **2021/22** | **2022/23** | **2023/24** | **2024/25** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Number of With Cause tests | 4 | 5 | 4 | 5 |

Data is based on the testing date.

## c) Substance misuse tests given on a pre-employment basis to people applying to be a police officer with your force.

Due to an amendment to recording methods, the information for 2021/22 is not directly accessible; to access it, a manual check of individual records would need to be undertaken. I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process this part of your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

For information relating to financial years 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25, please see the table below.

*Table 2: Pre-employment substance misuse tests completed, by financial year*

| **Category** | **2022/23** | **2023/24** | **2024/25** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Number of pre-employment tests | 1400 | 791 | 1372 |

## d) The number of positive tests to the number of tests undertaken in total for (a), (b) and (c).

For results, please see the table below. Additionally, please note, while the positive rate is high in comparison to the number of tests conducted, to reiterate the point at 1a, Police Scotland only carry out drug testing on serving officers where information/ intelligence is received regarding potential substance misuse. The low number of tests demonstrate this is a very rare occurrence.

*Table 3: With Cause Substance Misuse tests completed and which returned a positive result, by financial year*

| Category | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Number of tests with a positive result | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 |

## Data is based on the testing date.

## 2. Please break down 1d (the number of positive tests) by: a) The drug detected (e.g. cannabis, cocaine).

*Table 4: With Cause Substance Misuse tests completed and which returned a positive result, by drug type detected and financial year*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Drug Type Detected** | **2021/22** | **2022/23** | **2023/24** | **2024/25** |
| Cocaine | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 |

Data is based on the testing date.

## b) The disciplinary measures resulting (e.g. final warning, dismissed, job offer withdrawn).

*Table 5: With Cause Substance Misuse tests completed and which returned a positive result, by officer disposal and financial year*

| **Officer disposal** | **2021/22** | **2022/23** | **2023/24** | **2024/25** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Retired/ resigned | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| **Total** | **3** | **1** | **2** | **2** |

Data is based on the testing date.

Please note that cases may remain subject to live enquiry and/or misconduct proceedings, therefore may not yet be concluded.

## c) Whether the substance misuse test was given at random, with cause or on a pre-employment basis.

All data provided in table 1, 3, 4 and 5 were subject to with cause testing, those within table 2 were conducted on a pre-employment basis.

As noted in question 1, substance misuse tests are not conducted at random.

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.