| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-2655Responded to: 22 September 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Please detail in each of the past 10 years (financial year format is acceptable) the number of individual instances when Police Scotland staff were called upon to accompany abnormal loads - those requiring a chargeable Police Scotland Escort - on north division roads.**

Figures are provided in the table below, broken down by Load Type and Financial Year.

With regards to data prior to 2017, Police Scotland does not hold the information sought and section 17 of the Act therefore applies. To explain, legacy force recording procedures were in place until that time.

‘Non-Chargeable’ loads are not charged to the haulier. Those are where officers escort loads for under an hour, including the time it would take officers from the nearest Roads Policing base to travel to meet the load, as well as escort it.

If it will take less than one hour, then on shift officers will be used, assuming the haulier is content to wait until operational demands allow officers to attend. If the load will take longer than one hour, or if a specific move time is required, then a chargeable escort will be arranged.

Those recorded as Wind Farm loads, are only movements of components of the turbine i.e. tower sections, blades, nacelles, and hubs.

Where loads are moving infrastructure such as groundwork machines, cabling, transformers etc. to wind farm sites - these are recorded under Abnormal Loads and not Wind Farm movements.

| **Year** | **Non-Chargeable** | **Abnormal Loads** | **Wind Farm** | **Total Movements** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2017/18 | 422 | 706 | 473 | 1601 |
| 2018/19 | 633 | 606 | 781 | 2020 |
| 2019/20 | 1058 | 928 | 236 | 2222 |
| 2020/21 | 958 | 941 | 429 | 2328 |
| 2021/22 | 1374 | 1058 | 446 | 2878 |
| 2022/23 | 1507 | 985 | 557 | 3049 |
| 2023/24 | 1878 | 1045 | 389 | 3312 |
| 2024/25 | 1552 | 991 | 325 | 2868 |

**Please total the number of police officers/cars involved in those journeys in each of the 10 years. I’m willing to be flexible in this category as to the easiest way to convey and assess police manpower expended in each of those years, whether it is totals or average per journey etc.**

The police provide 2 officers and 2 cars for non-chargeable and abnormal loads. A wind farm movement has 3 officers and 3 cars on each.

**And please total the number of hours of police involvement in accompanying these loads throughout their journeys in each of the last 10 years.**

Chargeable escorts are resourced by officers on days off. Figures are provided in the table below for total number of overtime hours worked by officers in relation to abnormal loads in North Division.

As per above, information prior to 2016/17 is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

| **Year** | **Total overtime hours**  |
| --- | --- |
| 2016/17 | 7341 |
| 2017/18 | 6189 |
| 2018/19 | 8789 |
| 2019/20 | 3915 |
| 2020/21 | 5401 |
| 2021/22 | 4866 |
| 2022/23 | 4234 |
| 2023/24 | 4761 |
| 2024/25 | 5126 |

**Please also detail the total fees received from chargeable Police Scotland Escorts in each of those 10 years (calculated as per website stated fees).**

We are unable to provide details of the total fees received by North division as fees are not split to location level and are raised against a central cost centre. As such, the information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

To be of assistance, we can confirm Police Scotland’s minimum fee for a chargeable escort is 5.5 hours at the relevant SPA hourly rate for the rank of each officer used. This fee is directly linked to Police Regulation 18 which allows officers to claim 4 hours overtime plus travelling time for rest day working. We fully recover all costs from companies in relation to the transportation of abnormal loads.

**Additionally, can I ask for a proportion of Police Scotland Escorts that were for businesses involved in renewables/wind farm/electricity infrastructure.**

Figures are provided above in Table 1.

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 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 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.