

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2370
Date: 5th December 2022



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

Can your force reveal to me how many call outs to fireworks offences were made to your force between 2013 and 2022, given that a recent BBC Scotland news report states that police received 483 calls relating to firework offences, down from 581 in 2021?

In response to your request, I would firstly ask you to note that the figures provided are based on the 'Firework' *incident* classification and not all incidents will specifically relate to firework offences.

All incidents which come to the attention of the Service are recorded on STORM, Police Scotland's incident management system. An incident may well not involve recourse to formal criminal proceedings, as individuals report varying matters to the police, some of which allege criminality, and others merely report observations. All such calls are recorded on STORM as an incident; however, the recorded incident does not always result in a corresponding recorded crime.

The table below provides recorded Firework STORM incidents from 2018 to 8th November 2022 (Calendar years).

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Firework Incidents	1251	1228	1401	1006	836

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 22nd November 2022. Please note, Storm Incidents which included 'AB16', '783', '55/7', 'AB16', 'ASB16', or 'FK' in any of the Disposal Codes have been selected.

Please note that for the period prior to 2018, the thirteen divisions of Police Scotland used different recording systems in relation to the recording of incidents.

Whilst there are of course significant high-level similarities between the systems used across the country to allow for, for example, the recording of incidents etc. the differences when it comes to researching far more specific information are such that some information simply cannot be gathered accurately.

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As such, the only way to provide you with information prior to 2018 would be to individually examine all incident reports for 2013 – 2018 to establish whether they related to fireworks.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request. As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management Dundee, quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to foi@scotland.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.

Table 1: Recorded Firework STORM Incidents (Disposal Codes)

Period: 1st January 2013 – 8th November 2022 (Calendar Years)

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 22nd November 2022.

The data was extracted from the NPM Scomis Database using the incident's raised date.

Please note, Storm Incidents which included 'AB16', '783', '55/7', 'AB16', 'ASB16', or 'FK' in any of the Disposal Codes have been selected.