| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-3235  Responded to: xx January 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1. The number of Police Scotland custody suites that have closed down in the last 10 years. Please include the name of the station each custody suite was part of. If possible, please provide a breakdown of the figure by calendar year (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023).

Police Scotland’s custody operating model is the subject of a comprehensive annual review to ensure that it remains fit for purpose and that the estate footprint, staffing model and available capacity continues to meet its needs.

To increase flexibility, some custody facilities have been reclassified as ancillary stations and remain available for local policing to activate as and when required, i.e. for the purpose of short term arrest and interview situations where a custodial decision is not likely.

For clarity, I have interpreted the request to refer to custody centres that were closed completely and are no longer in use.

On that basis our records confirm that facilities at the following locations were closed within the requested period:

2020 – Hamilton and East Kilbride

2021 – Lanark

2022 – Arbroath

2023 – Ayr

A check of our systems for the period prior to 2020 has revealed no trace of any recorded information relevant to your request, however this does not mean that there were no custody facilities closed within that period.

## 2. The number of Police Scotland custody suites that have been opened (newly established) in the last 10 years. Please include the of the station each custody suite was part of. If possible, please provide a breakdown of the figure by calendar year (2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023).

I can confirm there have been no new custody suites opened in the ten year period requested. On that basis section 17 of the Act applies and I can confirm that the information sought is not held by Police Scotland.

## 3. The amount of money spent by Police Scotland on the operation of custody suites in the last 10 years. If possible, please provide a breakdown of the figure by financial year (2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 so far).

## The table below provides revenue expenditure for the operation of all Police Scotland custody suites, including supplies and services, transport, all staffing costs etc. but excluding main rent, rates or general premises running costs which are not directly attributable to custody suites but held centrally for all locations in our Estates department.

On that basis, the table below provides the information by financial year for the ten year period requested.

Table: Costs identified with the operation of Custody Suites - by financial year:

| **Financial Year** | **Net Expenditure £** |
| --- | --- |
| 2013/14 | £35,537,512 |
| 2014/15 | £28,658,244 |
| 2015/16 | £27,275,462 |
| 2016/17 | £27,143,584 |
| 2017/18 | £27,243,402 |
| 2018/19 | £29,052,344 |
| 2019/20 | £33,959,143 |
| 2020/21 | £35,964,563 |
| 2021/22 | £38,427,303 |
| 2022/23 | £40,357,787 |

For context, it is important to note the following:

* Significant efficiency measures instigated after the formation of Police Scotland in 2013 contributed to the cost reduction after FY2013/14. A further restructure of Custody activities and cost centres took place during this time period therefore may have an impact when comparing year on year cost trends.
* Decontamination costs increased by a factor of 10 in 2021 compared to the prior year and remained high in 2022 due to COVID-19 response. While this has come down by circa 60% in 2023 they remain higher than pre-pandemic levels.
* Material impacts were also felt in other costs categories as a direct result of the Police Scotland response to COVID19 in 2021 and 2022 such as police staff and officer overtime and specialist consumables (PPE).
* Following a reduction in officer numbers in 2023 linked to the McLeod Sargent remedy and budgetary restrictions officer and staff overtime has remained high.

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.