| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-2258  Responded to: 30 July 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I submit this request for specific information regarding the stop and search data in the Police Scotland area of responsibility. The information being sought relates to the datasets gathered by various public safety bodies in your area. This information is sought under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000). We are requesting the following data for the year 2024:**

1. **How many stop and search encounters took place in Scotland?**
2. **How many police officers were present at every encounter?**
3. **In addition to data for question 2, please provide data sorted by grounds, object and purpose of the search, legal power used, police outcome, action taken/sanction (if applicable), offence (if applicable), as well as the gender, age and ethnicity of the person stop and searched.**

**Please note that I am making this request based on the police obligation to keep records of this information in accord with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984 as specified in Code of Practice A, as well as the evidence in my research that several data collection softwares are currently in use by various public bodies. I am aware that you have provided information surrounding numbers of officers present during stop and search encounters to the APCC Race Disparity Working Group, and it is on this basis that I am confident the questions above should not violate the cost restrictions set out in s. 12 FOIA 2000 and the s.3 of the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. In addition, as I am asking for data that should be readily available in data gathering software, I am confident that responding to this request should not place a burden on public resources. For the purpose of clarity, I would also like to confirm that the information being requested relates only to policies and datasets of a depersonalised nature.**

In relation to Question 1 of your request, I can advise that the information sought is held by Police Scotland, but I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the section 25(1) exemption applies:

“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it […] is exempt information”.

The information sought is publicly available: [Data Publication - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/stop-and-search/data-publication/)

With regards to Questions 2 and 3, above, unfortunately I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

To explain, we would need to individually review each Stop and Search record, as well as any associated incident/crime reports, to establish the number of officers present and whether any further action was taken against the individual.

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.