| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-3000  Responded to: 19 December 2024 |
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## Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Could I please have answers to the following questions in accordance with Freedom of Information legislation?

## 1. What is the current budget spent and number of officers assigned to roads policing and how does this compare to the last ten years?

I have included tables at the bottom of this letter which provided details requested above.

With regards to providing the number of Police Officers assigned to Road Policing prior to 2019 I can advise you that Police Scotland does not hold the requested information. In terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that information is no longer held.

However, I have provided figures from 2019 onwards for your information.

## 2. Is there any internal modelling that has been done on the impact of the decline of investment on roads policing on the ability of Police Scotland to detect other crimes?

Following the HMICS Thematic Inspection of road policing in Scotland, published in November 2024, work is being progressed with the Service Design team to develop a sustainable operating model for RP.

## 3. How much time do officers spend on breach of bail callouts, on average?

I can advise you that Police Scotland does not hold the requested information. In terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that information is not held.

By way of explanation, the total costs relating to any investigation, both relating to the investigation itself and the number of hours involved, are difficult to quantify as the nature of policing means that officers are deployed to wherever their services are most required.

Furthermore, the number of officers required throughout an investigation will fluctuate and officers involved in a particular investigation, or multiple investigations, can be redeployed to other duties at any time, dependant on their skillsets.

Police Scotland may keep limited records for investigations, which record overtime costs and non-pay costs. These costs do not provide an accurate reflection of the total number of hours spent on an investigation nor do they provide, for the reasons stated above, an accurate cost for an investigation. The costs do not include, for example, officer hours where that officer would have been on duty anyway and as such are not recorded.

## 4. How many warrants have not been executed due a lack of police officers, in 2023-2024, and in the ten years prior to that year?

I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600/40 hours 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.

## 5. By how much has the roads policing budget been cut since 2013?

The Road Policing budget has increased from £30,114,418 in 2013 to £32,755,516 in 2024.

## 6. Is there a record of the number of local partnerships in place between police stations and third sector organisations?

Again, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

To provide you with a response we would need to ask each community policing within the local divisions if they had a partnership in place. As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600/40 hours and I estimate to provide you with a response 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.

## 7. How many civilian police staff have been cut since 2013?

I have provided a table of data below which has been extracted from Police Scotland’s System to Co-ordination Personnel and Establishment (SCOPE) database.

With regards to providing data prior to 2015 I can advise you that Police Scotland does not hold the requested information. In terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that information is no longer held.

To explain, Police Scotland came into existence on 1 April 2013 and inherited a diverse range of functions, structures and responsibilities along with a substantial restructuring process. Statistics prior to Police Scotland’s existence was recorded on the basis of legacy structure and as a result of the amalgamation of different system’s across Scotland, the quality of the data cannot be guaranteed until April 2015 onwards.

I have interpreted the term ‘been cut’ as meaning made redundant. As Police Scotland has a commitment to no compulsory redundancies, the below table provides the number of police staff who have exited the organisation through voluntary redundancy from calendar years 2013 – 30 November 2024.

Number of Police Staff leavers

| **Year** | **Redundancy – Voluntary** |
| --- | --- |
| 2015 | 254 |
| 2016 | 63 |
| 2017 | 156 |
| 2018 | 41 |
| 2019 | 16 |
| 2020 | 11 |
| 2021 | 54 |
| 2022 | 18 |
| 2023 | 15 |
| 2024 | 108 |

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.

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| **Road Policing** | **2013/14** | **2014/15** | **2015/16** | **2016/17** | **2017/18** | **2018/19** | **2019/20** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Annual Budget | 30,114,418 | 30,533,470 | 29,789,075 | 31,916,455 | 31,129,602 | 31,261,535 | 31,574,993 |
| Expenditure | 32,360,369 | 29,885,004 | 29,061,190 | 31,870,460 | 30,792,154 | 30,675,000 | 30,849,738 |

\* YTD Expenditure Oct (P7)

| **Road Policing** | **2020/21** | **2021/22** | **2022/23** | **2023/24** | **2024/25** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Annual budget | 30,291,401 | 30,050,269 | 30,802,574 | 32,056,135 | 32,755,516 |
| Expenditure | 29,823,857 | 30,379,594 | 32,0091,066 | 32,457,839 | 19,601,631\* |

Road Police Officer numbers

| **Year** | **Officer numbers** |
| --- | --- |
| 2024 – 30/06/24 | 518.00 |
| 2023/24 | 532.62 |
| 2022/23 | 521.549 |
| 2021/22 | 554.958 |
| 2020/21 | 553.847 |
| 2019/20 | 567.749 |