

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2254
Date: 21 November 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.

Specifically, could you please tell me the following information on a per month basis over a time period of up to 50 years:

- **the number of police calls to Seaton Park, Aberdeen and the immediately surrounding area**
- **the nature of police calls to Seaton Park, Aberdeen and the immediately surrounding area**

Having considered these questions in terms of the Act, 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 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.

By way of explanation, there is no facility to research *calls* unless they are recorded as incidents. For example an individual could contact the police and be given advice rather than an incident being created. Therefore given the vast number of calls made to the police this an exercise which would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

- **the number of recorded incidents in Seaton Park, Aberdeen and the immediately surrounding area**
- **the nature of recorded incidents in Seaton Park, Aberdeen and the immediately surrounding area**

In response to these questions, please see the tables at the end of this letter.

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- **sex and ages of victims of crime in Seaton Park, Aberdeen and the immediately surrounding area**
- **sex and ages of perpetrators of crime in Seaton Park, Aberdeen and the immediately surrounding area**

Having considered these questions in terms of the Act, 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 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.

By way of explanation, each and every crime would have to be examined to establish the gender and age at the time of the offence. As such this an exercise which would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

To be of assistance, I have provided you with recorded crime data in a table at the end of this letter

Additionally, please could you tell me if/ when Seaton Park is currently patrolled

In terms of Section 18 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to confirm or deny whether information relating to patrols in Seaton Park in recent times is held.

Section 18 applies where the following two conditions are met:

- It would be contrary to the public interest to reveal whether the information is held
Whilst we accept that you may have an interest in being informed as to whether or not the information sought is held, the overwhelming public interest lies in preventing crime and keeping people safe from harm.
- If the information was held, it would be exempt from disclosure in terms of one or more of the exemptions set out in sections 28 to 35, 38, 39(1) or 41 of the Act
In this instance, the exemptions listed below apply.

Section 35 (1)(a)&(b) - Law Enforcement

Section 39(1) - Health, safety and the environment

If such information were disclosed, experience has shown that it would allow those intent on committing crime or causing disorder to gauge the likelihood of detection or to take measures to negate the likelihood of detection.

It would allow criminals to plan how best to avoid police attention as a result, increase the risk of harm to both the public and police officers by making the park a less safe space.

I would suggest that public accountability would favour disclosure, given that the information concerns the efficient and effective use of resources by the Service.

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Likewise, disclosure of the information would also inform the public debate on the issue of policing and contribute to the accuracy of that debate.

Furthermore, the applicability of the exemptions listed above, the need to ensure the effective conduct of the service in relation to prevention and detection of crime and, the public safety considerations involved in the delivery of operational policing clearly favour non-disclosure of the information requested.

On balance I would contend that the public interest in disclosing the information is outweighed by that in maintaining the exemptions listed, as, it is doubtful if it can ever be in the public interest to disclose information which would prejudice the prevention or detection of crime or, which would jeopardise the delivery of operational policing and the safety of officers and police staff.

- **the average police response time to incidents in Seaton Park**

STORM Unity is the system currently used by Police Scotland for the management of police incidents and resources and is the source of the incident data provided in this response. It is worth noting that STORM is primarily a command & control system and has limited value as a statistical tool.

Most data obtained from the system requires further analysis to establish context. In large volumes, this can be extremely difficult to do and in some cases it is not possible to filter or structure data to adequately answer a specific request.

STORM automatically captures timing data when an incident is raised and dispatched. The arrival of a resource at the locus of an incident is recorded via a manual process and as a result is open to error.

The most common method of marking 'At Scene' is for officers to select a hotkey on their airwave device. This is often overlooked, particularly when officers arrive at the scene of a dynamic incident. Controllers are able to manually update the status of resources if required but this can naturally lead to errors in the accurate recording of the actual time of arrival. The priority of all staff is the safe and effective management of our policing response.

From previous reviews of data of this type, numerous errors in the accurate recording of this information have been identified. These include:

- Officers failing to update their handsets to mark themselves 'At Scene' when they actually arrived at locus. In some cases this was completed after a significant delay and in others the status was not updated until the incident was closed some time later.
- Incidents which were initially, appropriately, assessed at a lower response level but later reassessed and upgraded in response to new information. In these circumstances the timer does not reset, but reflects the total time from creation to dispatch/arrival.

Taking all of the above into account, 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.

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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.

By way of explanation, it would be necessary to manually review each incident to accurately extract and note actual attendance times and calculate response times from that data.

- **if there are any CCTV cameras at any entrances to or within the park**

I can advise that there are no Police Scotland cameras which cover this area. You may wish to contact Aberdeen City Council to enquire if they have any.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee at foidundee@scotland.police.uk 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, Dalrnarnock, 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.

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Month	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Jan	1			3	2	1	1	2	2	2		6	3	2	4	2	1	32
Feb	1	2		3	5	5	3	2	1	8	1		4	1	2	4	2	44
Mar		1	3	4	7	4	5	3	5	5	14	4	1	3	6		3	68
Apr	1	3	8	2	5	3	3	8	7	3	2	7	6	4	7	6	2	77
May		9	5	2	6	10	5	11	7	6	1	8	6	5	4	5	2	92
Jun	3	8	4	1	5	8	1	7	3	6	8	7	7	3	12	4	8	95
Jul	2	5	10	6	5	2	2	9	10	6	6	6	6	2	7	1	1	86
Aug	2	5	5	1	2	3	8	8	5	2	5	11	9	6	7	5	3	87
Sep		3	3	4	4	4	5	7	3	6	3	2	2	5	5	5	3	64
Oct	1	3	4	4	4	1	3	1	3	3	4	1	4		5	2	2	45
Nov	1			2	4	10	1	3	2	3	3	2	6	2	2	1	1	43
Dec	1	1	3	4	1	1		2			7	1	1	1	5	3		31
Total	13	40	45	36	50	52	37	63	48	50	54	55	55	34	66	38	28	764

Recorded Incidents by type:

Final incident type	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 *
Public nuisance	0	4	5	2	1	7	3	3	3	2	2	6	4	3	13	7	4
Drugs/substance misuse	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	3	0	4	2	1	3	2	3	0	0
Disturbance	0	3	2	1	0	1	1	3	1	0	2	2	0	1	1	1	0
Abandoned vehicles	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Noise	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Drinking in public	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	5	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Communications	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hate crime	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anti-social behaviour order	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
External force request	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Task incident	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

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Final incident type	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022[*]
Lost/found property	0	4	3	8	6	0	0	5	3	0	2	3	4	2	4	3	1
Police information	0	0	0	0	1	8	1	3	2	6	2	3	4	2	3	0	2
Special events/operations	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
False call	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	7	1	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	1
Duplicate incident	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	1	2	1	5	6	2	9	4	0
Police emergency	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Police generated activity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Assist member of the public	0	1	1	0	3	1	0	5	5	2	6	2	4	3	9	5	5
External agency request	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Wildlife crime	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Abduction/extortion	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual offence	1	1	1	1	4	1	0	1	4	0	2	1	3	2	0	0	0
Robbery	0	3	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Theft	0	0	0	2	3	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	1	1	4
Vehicle crime	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Housebreaking	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Suspect persons	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	3	2	3	1	1	1	1	4	2	0
Assault	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	1	0	1	0	1
Damage	1	1	3	5	2	1	0	4	2	1	2	5	0	2	0	3	0
Other crime	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Other	0	3	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Firearms incident	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Suspicious incident	2	6	4	4	4	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Planned shoot/pest control	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Fires	2	2	1	1	2	2	5	2	1	3	2	3	0	2	2	0	2
Animals	1	1	0	1	2	1	4	0	0	5	6	0	3	3	1	1	1
Weather	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Missing person/absconder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sudden death	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unauthorised encampment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Final incident type	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022[*]
Domestic incident	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abandoned/silent 999 call	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	1	3	3	3	2	1
Concern for person	2	1	7	0	4	5	4	2	6	6	4	8	8	2	5	5	2
Insecure premises	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Child protection	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0
Threats	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Road traffic collision	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
Road traffic matter	0	5	8	4	5	4	5	4	4	3	3	5	6	0	1	1	0
Road traffic offence	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	1	1
Total	13	40	45	36	50	52	37	63	48	50	54	55	55	34	66	38	28

Recorded Crimes by year/ month:

Month	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Jan					1		1							3		2		1				1					9
Feb							3						1	1	1	1		2	3		1	1			1		15
Mar		1	1	1			1		2								2	3		8	5	3	1	1		2	31
Apr	1		2			1							1				1	5		1	3		3		1	1	20
May	1						4			1	3	2	1	1		1	2	2		1	1	2	1			3	26
Jun	1										5	1			1		5		7	1	1	4	1		1	1	29
Jul			1		2		2	3	1	1	4							1		2	1		1	6			25
Aug		2	1	1		1	4			1			1	1			1				2	2	2	3			22
Sep			2	1		1						3		1				1	3				1	1	1	1	16
Oct			1	1				3			1			2				1		5		3	2	1			20
Nov				1				1	1									5	2	1	1	3	1		1	1	18
Dec													1				1	2	3	2				1	1		11
Total	3	3	8	5	3	3	15	7	4	3	13	6	5	9	2	4	12	22	16	24	15	18	14	13	6	9	242