| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1078  Responded to: 17 April 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 please can you provide responses to the following:**

1. **how many horses are currently in the mounted branch?**

There are currently 21 horses in the mounted branch.

1. **of these horses, how many are subject to regular deployments?**

Of the 21 horses referenced above, all but one are deployed on a regular basis. The remaining horse is due to retire to the Horse’s Trust imminently.

1. **how often, as an average, are the horses shod (I.e 4 weekly, 6 weekly)?**

5 weekly.

1. **what is the cost of farriery/shoeing per horse per cycle?**

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.

By way of explanation, the cost varies per horse, as they all have different work done, have different shoe sizes etc. To provide the cost per horse per cycle would require a manual review of all invoices, as such, this is an exercise which would exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

1. **what was the total cost of farriery/shoeing for the mounted branch for 2022, 2023, 2024?**

*Table 1: Cost of farriery/shoeing horses per financial year – 2021/22 – 2024/25 (to date)*

| **Financial Year** | **Cost** |
| --- | --- |
| 2021/22 | £30,493 |
| 2022/23 | £34,446 |
| 2023/24 | £35,753 |
| 2024/25 | £45,933 |

1. **what has been the vet expenses per year attributed to the horses/mounted branch for the years 2022, 2023, 2024?**

*Table 2: Mounted Unit vet bills – Financial years 2021/22 – 2024/25 to date*

| **Financial Year** | **Mounted Unit Vet Bills** |
| --- | --- |
| 2021/22 | £18,116 |
| 2022/23 | £18,449 |
| 2023/24 | £22,029 |
| 2024/25 | £26,758 |

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.