| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1590  Responded to: 09 June 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**For each year (financial or calendar) since 2014 please provide the number of:**

1. **Subject Access Requests (SARs) submitted to Police Scotland.**
2. **SAR responses which were NOT provided within the one month time limit (meaning the number of SAR responses which were issued late).**

First of all, information for the period prior to 2020 is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

For the period since, the information sought is detailed below.

Please note that as an extension of up to 2 further months can be applied, we do not specifically record whether responses were issued within one month. Instead, we record compliance or otherwise with the statutory deadline, whatever that may be.

I have therefore provided you with data that reflects our recorded ‘compliance rate’, which I trust will be of assistance.

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| **Year** | **SARs Received** | **Compliance Rate** |
| 2020 | 5,559 | 93% |
| 2021 | 5,900 | 92.1% |
| 2022 | 6,455 | 93.1% |
| 2023 | 7,564 | 87% |
| 2024 | 8,704 | 53.9% |
| 2025 (Jan - Mar) | 2,575 | 65.8% |

As you will note, there was a 57% increase in the annual volume of SARs received between 2020 and 2024.

1. **The number of complaints submitted in relation to SAR handling.**

We began recording what we term as an internal SAR review in January 2022.

Since that time, we have received 324:

2022 - 104  
2023 - 127  
2024 - 59  
2025 - 34

These will vary significantly in scope - covering everything from compliance with deadlines through to dissatisfaction with exemptions applied etc.

In relation to complaints to the external regulator, the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO), records do go back to 2019 however **all** ICO complaints were recorded together at that time. To explain, only a proportion of ICO complaints will relate to SARs, others may relate to other individual rights requests or alleged data breaches etc.

For that earlier period, every complaint would have to be individually assessed to determine whether or not it related to a SAR and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to do so.

I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

In 2023, ICO complaints that relate to SARs started to be recorded separately and the associated data is as follows:

2023 - 29  
2024 - 45  
2025 - 44

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.