| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1411  Responded to: 25 August 2025 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**In the 3 years from 01/01/2022 – 31/12/2024:**

1. **How many medical witness statements of fact have been requested by Police Scotland from doctors working in the NHS in Scotland?** 
   1. **Please could you break down how many of those statements were for criminal cases, how many for Fatal Accident Inquiries and how many for other reasons (please mention what these other reasons were).**
   2. **How many of these statements were written by the doctors and sent to the requesting officers and how many were verbal statements taken by the Police in person?**
   3. **Does your data granularity allow you to calculate the average time (in days) between issuing the statement request and getting one back from the doctor?**
   4. **How many of these requests originated in each Policing Division?**

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, to determine if a medical statement was requested would require a manual review of records associated with all crimes.

1. **Is there an internal Police SOP or other policy about obtaining medical witness statements from doctors working in the NHS in Scotland? Could the SOP or its salient points be shared? Is there a fee chargeable by the doctors for completing this work?**

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:

[Reports and Statements Writing publication Scheme](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/qkifqchk/reports-and-statements-writing-publication-scheme-final.docx)

1. **If there are no relevant SOPs, how is the decision made regarding whether a written statement or in-person statement is required?**

Please refer to question 2, relevant document has been linked.

1. **Is there a proforma used by Police Scotland for medical witness statements?** 
   1. **Could this be shared?**
   2. **Are there different proformas used by different policing divisions? If so, could they all be shared?**
   3. **Is the proforma the only acceptable format for these statements?**

Police Officers use a National Standard Statement for all civilian statements including doctors.

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 following exemptions apply:

## Section 35(1)(a)&(b) – Law Enforcement

Disclosure would prejudice substantially the prevention or detection of crime and apprehension or prosecution of offenders. If the forms used by our officers are disclosed, it would allow for those intent on committing crime or causing disorder to forge documents and use them for criminal purposes.

We can however confirm the National Standard Statement form captures the following information:

* Personal Information
* Personal Information (Non-Disclosable)
* Provenance
* Disclosable Free Text
* Non-Disclosable Free Text
* Availability
* Other Non-Disclosable Information

1. **Do you hold any data that quantifies:**
   1. **how much Police time is spent “chasing” NHS doctors to provide statements?**
   2. **If such data exists, is there a formula that translates police time to cost to the taxpayer?**
   3. **If time spent on this is not recorded quantitatively, are there any qualitative assessments or internal reports that address delays or barriers in obtaining medical statements?**

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, as per our answer to question 1, to determine if a medical statement was requested would require a manual review of records associated with all crimes.

It should also be noted that Police Scotland does not routinely record the costs or policing hours associated with any specific operation or investigation.

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.