

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2549
Date: 20 December 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.

How many Police Scotland stations were open in 2010 compared to the number that are currently open?

The Police Service of Scotland came into existence on 1 April 2013. While the roles and responsibilities of the legacy forces all came under the control and responsibility of Police Scotland, the organisation itself inherited a diverse set of structures and departments, which did not conform to a single, comparable model. For this reason I must respond in terms of Section 17(1) of the Act: Information not held.

To be of assistance we have provided a comparison between the earliest national data available (2013) and the time of request (2022).

To provide some context, Scotland's policing estate has been built up over the course of several decades and some buildings are no longer in the right place or operationally fit for purpose.

Many police station sales were as a result of properties declared surplus by Legacy Forces although the sales occurred post-formation of Police Scotland. The majority of these decisions, which took place prior to the formation of Police Scotland, were taken after lengthy and detailed consultation with our partners and local communities and this process remains the same today. In the vast majority of cases, police stations which were closed were moved to new modern co-located accommodation within the same towns or officers were moved to new police stations nearby.

The demands and risks facing policing has changed significantly over the years and will continue to do so in an ever changing Scotland and indeed world. However, Police Scotland recognises that local police stations remain important to local communities and that they help to promote and enhance local engagement between our police officers and the communities they serve. We understand how important local police presence is to communities and our Estate Strategy details our intention to enhance visibility and presence and to increase community bases for local officers, whilst identifying more opportunities to share locations with our public sector partners, enabling closer

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collaboration with our partners and driving quicker, better outcomes for the public and our communities.

We are also increasingly enabling officers to spend more time out in communities through projects such as the roll-out of mobile devices.

Please find the requested information in the attached spreadsheet

If you require further assistance or 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, Dalmarnock, 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.