

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1295  
Date: 28 July 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.

**Provide details of all reports from the public of sightings of alleged UFOs or unexplained lights in the last three years (May 19 - June 22). For each report, can Police Scotland indicate i) whether or not officers attended and ii) copies of the relevant incident reports.**

We initially replied as follows:

*Before progressing your request I just wanted to clarify a few points with you.*

*The position generally with requests for incident stats relating to UFO sighting etc is that such a request cannot be completed within cost - on the basis that there is no directly or potentially relevant incident classification related. That means that all incidents would have to be reviewed for relevance which I'm sure you will appreciate is tens of thousands even for a relatively short period.*

*The request you refer to below however was a follow up to a request whereby an applicant insisted on a keyword search of the incident recording system (as is their right) for a series of words/ phrases: 21-2812 ...*

*We have carried out similar research previously for a more extended time period/ fewer words and phrases: 21-2786 ...*

*There is obviously an element of subjectivity in terms of these requests and establishing genuine relevance but with that caveat and those explained in the response documents linked to above, we can proceed with a request nonetheless. The questions therefore, before progressing your request are:*

- 1. Are you happy to proceed on the basis of a keyword search?*
- 2. If so, which words/ phrases would you like to include? (I would recommend keeping this to a minimum to keep associated costs low - given the amount of false positives that have to be filtered out)*

*If you could let us know as soon as possible, we can start working on your request.*

You clarified:

**Many thanks for the guidance. Happy to proceed with a keyword search. Presumably you can search using all these keywords or a combination? How about: Strange light/s Flying object/s Sky**

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In researching your request, we carried out a key word search of the Police Scotland STORM incident recording system for 'strange light(s)' and/ or 'flying object(s)' where they appeared in conjunction with 'sky'.

On that basis, I can advise you that between May 2019 and June 2022 there are a total of seven incident reports of relevance:

26/06/2019 15:28 - attended

E Division

Description - 'Unidentified flying object'

Extract - 'spoke with inf who described seeing two separate objects within the sky emanating from the general direction of Lauriston castle and were both lost to sight -- the video in the attending officers opinion shows a small object which appears to be intermittently reflecting in the sun rather than a light'

19/04/2020 22:04 - attended

Q Division

Description - 'Strange lights in the sky'

Extract - 'caller reporting strange lights in the sky over Strathclyde park heading towards Motherwell - all in order at the park and surrounding area no trace of anything untoward'

14/06/2020 19:44 - not attended

N Division

Description - 'Strange lights in early morning'

Extract - 'The bright lights were highly likely to be police officers who were in the area at the time looking for a missing person'

16/09/2020 00:33 - attended

D Division

Description - 'Strange lights'

Extract - 'Laser show being set up by Enchanted Forest staff'

10/01/2021 03:31 - attended

C Division

Description - 'strange light in the sky'

Extract - 'lights in the sky, flashing blue, red and orange. Static in the sky, high up and not an aircraft that caller is aware of, not moving and not industrial -- CCTV viewed and no lights seen. Flaring is taking place at the INEOS plant tonight in Grangemouth'

27/04/2021 23:22 - not attended

P Division

Description - 'Unidentified object in sky'

Extract - 'caller reporting strange lights in the sky -- Out in the area and no lights apparent - nothing obvious to local officers'

06/03/2022 21:52 - not attended

J Division

Description - 'Flying object'

Extract - 'caller reporting seeing flying object in the sky' (this was later confirmed to be a drone sighting - noted on a separate incident log)

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Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee 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.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@scotland.pnn.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](mailto: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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