

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1194
Date: 29 June 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.

Further to section 2.5 of the Mental Health Calls for Service report presented at the Scottish Police Authority's May 26 meeting (attached), please could you:

Provide a breakdown of access to dedicated mental health professionals across Scotland's police stations and custody suites, detailing which police stations and custody suites currently do and do not have access to these professionals.

I can advise that Police Scotland does not hold the above requested information. In terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that information is not held.

By way of explanation, as per the report all Health Boards provide basic 'fitness to detain, interview, release and attend court' mental health assessments, which are carried out by nursing staff or on-call medical examiners. Many of the nurses employed in this capacity have enhanced mental health training, however the requirement for full mental health assessments requires referral to local community mental healthcare services'. That means that all persons who enter police custody will have access to a basic mental health assessment with a local pathway for more acute assessments.

Each of the Health Boards are best placed to provide the details of their staff who have enhanced mental health training as Police Scotland does not hold that information.

Provide me with any information and documentation used to compile section 2.5 of this report.

Please find below the requested information:

[Mental Health Strategy 2017-2027 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)
HMICS20220412PUB\(acc\).docx](https://www.gov.scot/publications/hmics20220412pub/acc/docx)

Advise whether the Scottish Police Authority currently expects to meet the target laid out in Action 15 of the Scottish Government Mental Health Strategy 2017 – 2027, to “give access to dedicated mental health professionals to... every police station custody suite, and to our prisons”

Provide all evidence and documentation supporting this assessment

I can advise that Police Scotland does not hold the above requested information. In terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that information is not held.

By way of explanation, as per the strategy this funding was provided to Community Planning Partnerships, Integration Authorities, NHS Boards, training bodies, and local and national government, to directly implement this action.

Police Scotland do not hold this information and you may wish to contact the organisations noted above who would be best placed to provide detail on how they have used the funding allocated to them.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Glasgow at – foi@scotland.police.uk – 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.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.