| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1072  Responded to: 22 April 2024 |
| --- | --- |

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

**I am writing in relation to a request under the Freedom of Information Act. Specifically, I would like to ask the following:**

**1. The total number of police officers who were in employment at your force in May 2010;**

The information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

To be of assistance, data is available for 31 March 2010, which is line with our normal reporting periods - [[ARCHIVED CONTENT] Crime and Justice - Publications - Police Strength Statistics for Scotland (nrscotland.gov.uk)](https://webarchive.nrscotland.gov.uk/20200114065713/https:/www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PublicationPoliceStrength)

**2. As of 06.04.24, what is the total number of police officers in current employment by your force;**

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 27(1) exemption applies:

“Information is exempt information if it is held with a view to its being published […] at a date not later than twelve weeks after […] the request for the information is made”.

The information will be published online -  [Police Scotland Officer Numbers - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/police-scotland-officer-numbers/)

I believe it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information be withheld from disclosure at this time, and that maintaining the exemption outweighs any public interest in disclosure.

**3. The total number of PCSOs who were in employment at your force in May 2010;**

**4. As of 06.04.24, how many PCSOs were employed by your force;**

Our interpretation of this question is that you are seeking information regarding Police Community Support Officers. On that basis, the information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies. Police Scotland does not employ PCSOs.

**5. Finally, if the data is available and it does not exceed the cost threshold, please could you provide an estimation of how many people your force served in 2010, and, by contrast, how many it serves in 2024?**

Section 17 of the Act applies as the information sought is not held by Police Scotland.

You may be interested in some information available online:

[Population | National Records of Scotland (nrscotland.gov.uk)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population)

[Scotland's Census 2022 - Rounded population estimates | Scotland's Census (scotlandscensus.gov.uk)](https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/2022-results/scotland-s-census-2022-rounded-population-estimates/)

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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) 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.