| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-3181  Responded to: 26 September 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Please provide me with the following information relating to payments made to Covert Human Intelligence Sources (CHIS).**

1. **For the financial years 21/22, 22/23, 23/24, 24/25 and 25/26 (so far) please a value for how much the police force has spent on CHIS, providing a breakdown for each FY**
2. **For the financial years 21/22, 22/23, 23/24, 24/25 and 25/26 (so far) please state how many CHIS authorisations were granted to the police force, providing a breakdown for each FY**
3. **For the financial years 21/22, 22/23, 23/24, 24/25 and 25/26 (so far) please state how much the police force has spent on CHIS related to Palestine protest groups, providing a breakdown for each FY**

In response to your request, I would first of all advise you that Police Scotland have opted to publish Covert Human Intelligence Source (CHIS) payment data in calendar year format.

To be of assistance, the table below details such payments:

| **Year** | **£ paid** |
| --- | --- |
| 2021 | 305,588.72 |
| 2022 | 288,850.80 |
| 2023 | 321,419.41 |
| 2024 | 332,189.84 |

With regards to the figure for 2025, I would encourage you to apply for the information once the full year data is available.

In the meantime, in terms of section 18 of the Act, I am refusing to confirm or deny whether the information sought exists or is held by Police Scotland. Section 18 applies where the following two conditions are met:

* It would be contrary to the public interest to reveal whether the information is held.
* If the information was held, it would be exempt from disclosure. In this instance, the following exemptions would apply:

## Section 31(1) - National Security and Defence

## Section 34(1)(b) - Investigations

## Section 35(1)(a)&(b) - Law enforcement

I would first of all advise you that the use of Covert Human Intelligence Sources (CHIS) by the Police is a long-established technique and regarded as a very effective investigatory tool. CHIS can provide unrivalled access to crime groups and play an integral role in the gathering of intelligence used to combat and reduce crime. The results achieved from intelligence greatly outweigh the cost of rewards paid to CHIS.

Disclosure of any data relating to the use of CHIS would reveal the extent to which the use of covert information is used in a particular area, which if replicated across the country would potentially alert criminals who would be able to make decisions based on those assumptions.

It is acknowledged that Police Scotland's covert activities have fuelled the public interest in how often certain tactics are deployed. Disclosing whether information is held would potentially serve to better inform the public of policing activities.

On balance, disclosing whether information is held would compromise the future law enforcement role of the force, the safety of individuals and put the public at risk. It is therefore considered that it would be contrary to the public interest to disclose whether information is held.

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.