| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 24-0496Responded to: 21st March 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I would like to know how many times Police Scotland have been called to the Royal Edinburgh Hospital between February 1st and February 16th 2024.

There were 43 recorded callouts to the Royal Edinburgh hospital Between the period 1st February - 16th February 2024 (Inclusive)

## I would like to know how many of these calls were responses to assaults and serious assaults.

There were 4 recorded callouts in response to assault and serious assault to Royal Edinburgh Hospital for the period 1st February - 16th February 2024 (Inclusive).

## I would like to know how many members of staff at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital were assaulted/seriously assaulted during these calls.

1 member of staff was the victim of assault.

## I would like to know how many members of staff were seriously injured by patients during these calls.

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

By way of explanation there are no search markers to indicate whether the accused was a patient or not at the time of the assault.

## If possible, I would like to know the details of the injuries.

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 section 38 exemption applies.

It would be contrary to the public interest to reveal whether the information is held.
Whilst we accept that you may have a particular personal interest in being informed as to whether the information sought is held, the overwhelming public interest lies in protecting individuals’ right to privacy and their expectation of confidence as regards their information.

If the information was held, it would be exempt from disclosure. In this instance, sections 38(1)(b) and 38(1)(2A) of the Act apply insofar as you have requested *third party* personal data, the disclosure of which would contravene the data protection principles set out in the Act.

In addition, the role of the police is to determine the circumstances of any assault so that the incident can be fully investigated – officers are not required to comment on the details and severity of any injury sustained.

## and a detailed breakdown of the police response.

In terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought. Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

(a) states that it holds the information,

(b) states that it is claiming an exemption,

(c) specifies the exemption in question and

(d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

With respect to your request, I believe that the relevant exemptions are:

**Section 35(1)(a)&(b) Law Enforcement**

Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would or would be likely to prejudice substantially the prevention or detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.  Publicly disclosing information relating to how the police respond to specific incidents would allow those intent on causing disruption to accurately gauge that response for future events.  This would allow them to have a tactical advantage when planning or perpetrating any unlawful activities and maximise the impact of destruction, harm and disruption that may be caused, whilst avoiding being brought to justice.

One of the main purposes of the Police Service is to prevent crime but to release this information would be contrary to that purpose.

**Section 39(1) Health, Safety and the Environment**

Disclosure of the information requested has the potential to increase the number of attacks on a group of specific individuals and increase the risk of harm to the public.

Additionally, disclosure of the requested information has the potential to present a risk to an individual’s personal safety.

**Public Interest Test**

I would suggest that public accountability may favour disclosure, given that the information concerns the efficient and effective use of resources by the Service. Likewise, disclosure of the information would also inform the public debate on the issue of policing and contribute to the accuracy of that debate.

However, any disclosure under FOI legislation is a disclosure to the world at large and any information identifying the focus of policing activity could be used to the advantage of criminals.

Consequently, in terms of the applicability of the exemptions listed above, the need to ensure the effective conduct of the service in relation to prevention and detection of crime and the public safety considerations involved in the delivery of operational policing clearly favour non-disclosure of the information requested.

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 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 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.