| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-2210Responded to: 28 August 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## The number of arrests made by Police Scotland in Scotland in relation to football matches during seasons 2015/16 to 2024/25, broken down by:

## Inside football stadiums (by club/home ground)

## Outside stadiums and in the immediate vicinity (by club / ground).

## Overall number of arrests by club

## A breakdown of arrest reasons (e.g., public disorder, assault, violent disorder, possession of class A drugs, entering the pitch, alcohol offences, hate crime etc.), if available. For hate crime, please break down if incidents related to race, sexual orientation, religion etc

The Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 removed the separate concepts of arrest and detention and replaced them with a power of arrest without warrant - where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting a person has committed, or is committing, an offence.

When a person is arrested, a statement of arrest should be read over as soon as reasonably practicable, and details recorded in the arresting officer’s notebook.

A person is ‘Not Officially Accused’ (a suspect) when arrested *and* *not* cautioned and charged. They are ‘Officially Accused’ once arrested *and* cautioned and charged.

If conveyed to a police station, the arrested person will have their details recorded in our National Custody System.

There are situations however whereby a person must be released from police custody prior to their arrival at a police station - effectively they are ‘de-arrested’ - where the reasonable grounds for suspicion no longer exist. In those circumstances, the details of an arrested person are not held electronically.

As a result, we are unfortunately unable to collate comprehensivearrest data, as case by case assessment of all officer notebooks would be required - in addition to the partialarrest data held in the National Custody System.

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request and I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

For the reasons outlined above, Police Scotland do not collate data on arrests.

Similarly, it is not possible to search our crime recording systems based in the locus being within or in the vicinity of a football stadium at the time of a football match.

1. Number of football banning orders issued in Scotland, broken down by
2. Club

Figures are provided in Table 1 below – figures correct as at 26/08/2025.

1. Sex

All football banning orders were issued to males.

1. Age group

Figures are provided in Table 2 below – figures correct as at 26/08/2025.

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](https://www.foi.scot/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.

**Table 1: Football banning orders broken down by year and football club.**

| **Football club** | **2015/16** | **2016/17** | **2017/18** | **2018/19** | **2019/20** | **2020/21** | **2021/22** | **2022/23** | **2023/24** | **2024/25** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Aberdeen | 2 | 2 |   | 1 |   |   | 1 | 17 |   |  3 |
| Airdrie | 1 |   |   |   | 1 |   | 2 |   | 3 |   |
| Ajax | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Atletico Madrid |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |
| Ayr United | 1 | 1 | 3 |   |   |   | 6 |   | 2 |  1 |
| Boness United |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |
| Celtic | 11 | 7 | 6 | 10 | 8 | 2 | 15 | 13 | 12 | 4 |
| Clyde |   |   | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |   | 1 |
| Cowdenbeath |   | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Dundee  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 1 |   |
| Dundee United |   |   |   |   |   |   |  1 | 1 |  | 1 |
| Dunfermline | 1 |   | 1 |   |   |   |   | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Falkirk | 1 | 2 |   | 2 | 1 |   |   | 1 |  1 |   |
| Glenafton |   | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Hamilton |   | 2 |   | 2 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Hearts | 15 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 3 |   |  2 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Hibernian | 55 | 1 | 10 | 10 | 5 |   | 7 | 5 | 1 |  1 |
| Hurlford United |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |
| Inverness CT | 1 | 1 |   | 1 |   |   | 1 |   |   |   |
| Irvine Meadow |   | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Kilmarnock | 8 | 1 |   | 1 | 1 |   |  1 |  1 |   |   |
| Morton | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Motherwell | 3 |   | 2 | 1 |   |   |   | 1 |  1 |   |
| Partick Thistle | 5 | 1 |   |   |   |   |  1 | 1 |   |   |
| Peterhead |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 1 |   |
| Poland | 5 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Queen of the South | 2 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  1 |   |
| Raith Rovers | 1 |   |   | 2 |   |   |   |   |   | 1 |
| Rangers | 54 | 18 | 11 | 24 | 6 | 6 | 21 | 17 | 11 | 4 |
| Scotland | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |  2 |   |   |
| St Johnstone |   |   |   |   |   | 1 |  | 2 |  |  |
| St Mirren | 1 | 1 |   | 4 |   |   |   |   | 1 |   |
| Stranraer |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2 |  |
| Wigan |  |  |  | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total** | **170** | **42** | **35** | **68** | **25** | **9** | **58** | **65** | **44** | **19** |

**Table 2: Football banning orders broken down by year and age group.**

| **Age Group** | **2015/16** | **2016/17** | **2017/18** | **2018/19** | **2019/20** | **2020/21** | **2021/22** | **2022/23** | **2023/24** | **2024/25** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 16-24 | 83 | 23 | 20 | 30 | 13 | 7 | 29 | 39 | 18 | 7 |
| 25-34 | 48 | 11 | 8 | 24 | 11 | 2 | 16 | 16 | 13 | 8 |
| 35-44 | 18 | 5 | 4 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 2 |
| 45-54 | 20 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 2 |
| 55-64 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 65+ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **170** | **42** | **35** | **68** | **25** | **9** | **58** | **65** | **44** | **19** |