| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2311  Responded to: 29 September 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## The number of days lost to sickness by Police Scotland Officers and if this could be broken down by division and type of absence, over past 5 years

In response to this question, please see the spreadsheet provided, please note that the requested data has been provided for police officers only.

## The amount of Police Officers based in Falkirk town centre on Friday and Saturday nights over the past year

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.

In response to your question, I believe exemptions Section 35(1)(a) and (b) Law Enforcement and Section 39(1) Heath, Safety and the Environment applies.

**Section 35(1)(a) and (b)**

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.

If the requested information was disclosed, could be used to calculate how and when resources are allocated within areas of policing. I appreciate that you have requested historical information however disclosure of this information could be used to project future resourcing and enable those with criminal intent to plan and perpetrate unlawful activities, with the purpose of avoiding detection.

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

This is a non-absolute exemption and requires the application of the Public Interest Test.

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

Disclosure of resourcing information has the potential to increase the number of hostilities directed towards public figures, operational police officers and members of the public.

One of the main purposes of the Police Service is to protect individuals and members of the public, to disclose the requested information would be contrary to that purpose.

This is a non-absolute exemption and requires the application of the public interest test.

**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.

Accordingly, I would argue that the need to ensure the efficient and effective conduct of the service favours non-disclosure of the information requested and on balance is significantly in the public interest. I cannot identify any corresponding viewpoint in disclosing the requested information and therefore the exemptions are upheld.

I must advise you that it is doubtful it could ever be in the public interest to disclose information which would jeopardise the delivery of policing and the safety of individuals and prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

To be of assistance I can advise that in Falkirk town centre, on Friday and Saturday nights response and community policing teams are supported by officers from the Divisional Alcohol and Violence Reduction Unit (DAVRU) and officers allocated to the Weekend Policing Plan (WPP).

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.