| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1745  Responded to: 02 July 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**The number of firearms certificates that have been issued in the last 5 years, and specifically how many of those had paid stalks only, as their reason for applying.**

**We asked for clarification regarding the request, and you replied to confirm that the figures requested were for new granted certificates only and it was the overall total required rather than a yearly breakdown. You also clarified that the key information requested was how many of those were issued with paid guided stalking as their good reason.**

Following a search of our Firearms Licensing recording system, I can confirm that 5,293 new grant firearm applications were received for the period 01/07/2020 - 01/07/2025 inclusive.

With regards to how many of those new grant applications were issued with paid guided stalking as their reason for applying, unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

By way of explanation, the only way to identify if paid stalking is given as the sole or one of the good reasons for applying is to review every application individually – an exercise which would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

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.