

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0650
Date: 31 March 2022



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

- 1. The number of cannabis factories found in the last five years. Please break this down by year. Please take 'found' to mean either those where the factories were still active, or where criminals had been active but moved on.**
- 2. The number of cannabis factories found in non-residential buildings in the last five years. Please break this down by year.**

In response to your request, I can first of all advise you that there is no recognised definition of factory/farm and as such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

I can further advise you that crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the Scottish Government Justice Department [offence classification codes](#) and are not thereafter sub-categorised.

In this instance, the relevant offence is *Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs*, however the classification is not thereafter sub-categorised by drug type.

As such, the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to assess each crime report, for the time period requested, to establish whether cannabis was involved, and extract the relevant details.

As illustrated in our [Published Statistics](#), for the financial year 20/2021 alone, there were 710 recorded offences of Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs. Therefore given the volume of reports that would need to be examined this would be an exercise which would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to

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foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.

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