

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0347  
Date: 24 February 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.

**I would like to request some information relating to crimes committed at pharmacies in Scotland under the Freedom of Information Act. Please can you supply the following information:**

- 1) **The total number of crimes that occurred at premises registered as a pharmacy (which may be termed as a “chemist” in location codes) between January 1 and December 31 2021**
- 2) **How many assaults or violent crimes including arson were committed at a registered pharmacy between January 1 and December 31 2021?**
- 3) **Please can you supply details of the incidents described in points 1 and 2, including:**
  - a) **If suspects were believed to be armed (and details of suspected weapons, e.g. knife, firearm)**
  - b) **whether anyone was hurt**
  - c) **the number of people proceeded against in relation to these incidents, and the type of proceeding and outcome that took place (charge, caution, etc).**

**I would also be interested in any information held by your organisation regarding my request, including a breakdown of the number of different types of crime that occurred at a registered pharmacy between January 1 and December 31, 2021. I understand that I do not have to specify particular files or documents and that it is the department’s responsibility to provide the information that I require.**

Having considered your request in terms of the Act, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

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As previously explained to you (21-2355), crimes are recorded by offence classification using Scottish Government Justice Department crime classification codes rather than by a location or type of business. As a result, the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to read through each and every crime report to establish if the type of premises is detailed. Given the thousands of reports that would have to be researched this is an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

You can access our published crime statistics via the following link: [How we are performing - Police Scotland](#)

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee on [foidundee@scotland.police.uk](mailto:foidundee@scotland.police.uk) 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 [foi@scotland.police.uk](mailto:foi@scotland.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](mailto: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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