



## Freedom of Information Response

Our reference: FOI 25-0994

Responded to: xx April 2025

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

### 1. Police officer numbers by region, annually since 2016

The information sought is held by Police Scotland, but I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the section 25(1) exemption applies:

“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it [...] is exempt information”.

The information sought is publicly available and can be found at the link below.

[Police officer quarterly strength statistics Scotland - gov.scot](#)

### 2. Foot patrol hours by region, annually since 2016

Having considered your questions in terms of the Act, section 17 of the Act would apply as the specific information requested is not held by Police Scotland.

By way of explanation, police officer deployment is dynamic and will plans will change regularly as a result of intelligence and/ or operational need.

Officers can be diverted from what might be described as a routine patrol in order to respond to an ongoing incident etc.

Similarly, patrols may become ‘routine’ over a period of days/ weeks as a result of a particular incident or particular community concerns etc. but then resources are deployed elsewhere as the situation changes.

We do not record what part of an officer’s shift is spent on patrol as opposed to dealing with particular incidents etc.

Officers will be deployed in real time according to operational need.

### 3. Number of police stations closed since 2016

There is no requirement to record when a police station is closed, as such in terms of section 17, the information requested is not held.

To be of assistance, I can provide the number of stations sold.

Please see the table below, additionally, please note, Scotland's policing estate has been built up over the course of several decades and some buildings are no longer in the right place or operationally fit for purpose. Many police station sales were as a result of properties declared surplus by Legacy Forces although the sales occurred post-formation of Police Scotland. The majority of these decisions, which took place prior to the formation of Police Scotland, were taken after lengthy and detailed consultation with our partners and local communities and this process remains the same today. In the vast majority of cases, police stations which were closed were moved to new modern co-located accommodation within the same towns or officers were moved to new police stations nearby.

Year	Number of police stations sold
2016	10
2017	14
2018	11
2019	26
2020	6
2021	6
2022	9
2023	4
2024	7
2025 to date	3

**4. Number of stations requiring repairs or deemed unfit for purpose, by region**

I can advise that one station was closed due to health and safety concerns.

The table below provides the number of stations requiring repairs across the estate, broken by division.

Division	Number of stations requiring repairs
North East	53
Forth Valley	13
Tayside	32
Edinburgh	21
Greater Glasgow	35
The Lothians and Scottish Borders	29
Renfrewshire and Inverclyde	11
Argyll and West Dunbartonshire	19
Highland and Islands	41
Fife	14
Lanarkshire	26
Ayrshire	22
Dumfries and Galloway	17

## OFFICIAL

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](#), 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](#) 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.