

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0984
Date: 18th May 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.

How many deaths have Police Scotland attended which have ended up being recorded as unexplained (or undetermined) deaths in -

2019
2020
2021

In response to this question, 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.

By way of explanation, a review of all death reports submitted to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS), for the time period requested, would have to be carried out to ascertain whether there was any relevance therein to the cause of death being unexplained/ undetermined.

This is an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

You may be interested in Police Scotland's recorded murder and culpable homicide statistics, published on our website:-

[How we are performing - Police Scotland](#)

You may also be interested in National Records of Scotland (NRS) death data for Scotland:-

[Vital Events - Deaths | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/vital-events-deaths)

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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 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 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.

