

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2021-0634
Date: 26 April 2021



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.

In compiling this response, the data presented for questions 1, 3 and 4 has been extracted from Police Scotland's System to Co-ordination Personnel and Establishment (SCOPE) database. Police Scotland staff responsible for Special Constables provided the answer to questions 2 and 5.

Special Police Constables play an integral role within Police Scotland, providing an important link between policing and local communities. Special Police Constables are a valued resource, having been a feature of Scottish policing since the 1800s and part of Police Scotland since its inception in 2013.

Special Constables make a significant contribution to keeping our communities safe by undertaking a wide range of policing duties and demonstrating a very high level of personal commitment.

The cadre of Special Constables within Police Scotland offers a capable, skilled and flexible resource which provides invaluable support for operational policing.

This has been particularly evident during recent times, whereby Police Scotland has faced increasingly complex and concurrent demands and the deployment of Special Police Constables has been instrumental in delivering an effective response.

1. How many Special Constables does the authority have as of March '21? Could you provide a divisional breakdown if possible:

Table 1: No of Special Constables broken by Division in service.
Correct as at 31 March 2021

Division	No. of Special Constables
A Division	84
D Division	54
N Division	59

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C Division	27
E Division	37
J Division	35
P Division	30
G Division	26
K Division	8
L Division	15
Q Division	22
U Division	25
V Division	26
Corporate Services Division	1
Operational Support Division	6
Specialist Crime Division	6
Grand Total	461

2. Could you provide a breakdown of the duty hours of your Special Constables for the last 12 months, again if possible a breakdown by Division would be appreciated.

Table 2: Duty hours completed by Special Constables
1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

Division	Total Hours
A Division	12246.30
C Division	5240.75
Corporate Services Division	2.00
D Division	11803.55
E Division	9180.30
G Division	6210.45
J Division	7831.70

K Division	1663.00
L Division	3276.70
N Division	9446.60
Operational Support Division	873.40
P Division	5904.55
Q Division	6775.45
Specialist Crime Division	1008.00
U Division	5626.80
V Division	3313.35
Grand Total	90402.90

3. How many Special Constables have resigned in the last 12 months from their role, and of these, how many have gone on to become full time PCs?

Table 3: No of Special Constables who have left the organisation and reason recorded.
1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

Reason for Leaving	No. of Leavers
Resignation – Personal	68
Resignation – Special Constable to Police Constable	17
Total	85

4. How many Special Constables have joined the authority in the last 12 months?

In the period 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021 there have been **36** new Special Constable Recruits to the organisation.

5. Does the organisation have any 'inactive' Special Constables? If so, how many?

Police Scotland has **35** inactive Special Constables. The term 'inactive' is a Special Constable who has not undertaken duty for a period of 6 months, or more, without providing an explanation/reason.

If you require further assistance or 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.

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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.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.