| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1913  Responded to: 21st August 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## How many police stations have closed in your constabulary since 2015.

## What are the names of the police stations that have closed.

To provide some context, 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.

The demands and risks facing policing has changed significantly over the years and will continue to do so in an ever changing Scotland and indeed world. However, Police Scotland recognises that local police stations remain important to local communities and that they help to promote and enhance local engagement between our police officers and the communities they serve. We understand how important local police presence is to communities and our Estate Strategy details our intention to enhance visibility and presence and to increase community bases for local officers, whilst identifying more opportunities to share locations with our public sector partners, enabling closer collaboration with our partners and driving quicker, better outcomes for the public and our communities.

We are also increasingly enabling officers to spend more time out in communities through projects such as the roll-out of mobile devices.

With regards to the number of front or public counters that have closed within the time frame requested I can advise you that Police Scotland does not hold information in the format requested. In terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that information is not held.

To be of assistance we have provided a comparison between the earliest national data available (2013) and the same data at February 2023. Please see the attached spreadsheet for details.

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](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) 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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) 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](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/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.