| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-2250Responded to: 11th August 2025 |
| --- | --- |

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

## The total number of roadside breath tests conducted in each of the past three calendar years (2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 so far if available), broken down by month or quarter if possible.

## If available, a breakdown of breath tests conducted by local authority area, town, or policing sector within your jurisdiction.

The table below details roadside breath tests administered by Roads Policing officers in each command area over the past three calendar years inclusive:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Command Area** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** |
| West | 4,303 | 5,975 | 5,071 |
| East | 4,651 | 6,347 | 7,331 |
| North | 5,636 | 6,470 | 5,871 |

It is important to note that these figures relate to roadside breath tests carried out by Road Policing officers *only*.

We are unable to provide data for Local Policing officers as not all traffic stops on suspicion of drunk driving will result in an incident or crime being recorded.

Therefore, the only way to provide an accurate and consistent response would be to retrieve and manually review the notebooks of *all* police officers on duty across each command area at the relevant time.

Given the volume of reports that would be required to be read through and collated for the three-year period specified, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request.

I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

## The number of drivers who tested positive or failed a breath test in each of those years.

## The top 5 locations (towns/areas/postcodes) where the highest number of drink driving offences were recorded over the past three years.

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”.

To be of assistance, recorded and detected crime data is publicly available on the Police Scotland website, broken down by Multi-Member Ward area: [Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/)

‘Detected’ crimes are those where an accused has been identified and there exists a sufficiency of evidence under Scots Law to justify consideration of criminal proceedings.

## Any available demographic breakdown (e.g. age group and gender) for individuals who:

## Were stopped and breathalysed, and

## Failed a breath test or were charged with a drink driving offence,in the above time period.

Unfortunately, I regret to inform you that I estimate it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

By way of explanation, the age and/ or the gender of the accused cannot be easily extracted from crime reports for the period covered by your request, meaning all relevant reports would need to be individually examined to ascertain the gender of the accused and their age at the time.

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](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), 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](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.