| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1345  Responded to: 27 May 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Can you tell me in each of the past six years, ending full year 2024, how many time Police Scotland -

## A) Responded to an incident or followed up afterwards where a licensed firearm has been used in a manner of concern to Police Scotland, in totality of the number of incidents

## Broken down (if available or practical), how many of those incidents involved -

## i) specifically by the licensed firearm holder themselves

## ii) by anyone else other than the licensed owner of that firearm

## B) How many firearms licensees have voluntarily surrendered their firearm, in total and after such an incident.

## C) How many firearms licensees have had firearms removed following a Firearms Search Warrant, in total and after such an incident.

Unfortunately, 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) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

To explain, relevant incidents could be opened under any incident code on our incident recording system STORM. Researching your request would therefore require the individual assessment of all incidents to establish the circumstances and relevance to your request.

To be of some assistance, we can advise that the removal of guns from a certificate holder is done initially on a voluntary basis with their consent. Some actively volunteer their guns, with others requiring more time to understand the reasons for the removal of the guns and consider their legal options before doing so.

Should a certificate holder decide not to hand over their guns voluntarily, it is necessary for officers to obtain a firearms search warrant from a Sheriff to take possession of the guns and force entry if necessary.

We can advise that we have been granted warrants on five occasions over the past three years where certificate holders have decided not to hand over guns. Therefore, warrants have been obtained to allow us to take them by force if necessary.

**D) If appropriate after collation of the data, any other contextual information which fully illustrates Police Scotland’s response in such a situation should the format of the response provide an inaccurate or skewed picture - eg if the search reveals** there are a large number of complaints deemed vexatious, relative to a smaller proportion of total firearms surrendered and removed.

As you may be aware, the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 provides a right of access to recorded information only. Section 8 of the Act states that in order for a request to be valid, an applicant must describe the information requested - which is not the same as asking for a statement to be created in response to a particular matter.

We are unable to offer any comment therefore as regards the matters set out above.

In terms of any pre-existing recorded information that would set out the Police Scotland ‘position’, such information is not held, and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

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](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) 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.