

**OFFICIAL**

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2087  
Date: 12<sup>th</sup> October 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.

**I would therefore like to request the following information:**

- **The number of certificates currently on issue broken down by weapon type and by processing centre (the latest available data, please state date) plus the total number of weapons covered by these certificates i.e.:**

Processing Centre	Firearm Certificates	Firearms total	Shotgun Certificates	Shotguns total	Air Weapon Certificates	Air Weapons total
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- **For each weapon type, a breakdown of the number of certificates: granted, refused, renewed and revoked broken down by processing centre by month for as far back as the data is held to the latest full month available i.e., for each of firearms, shotguns and air weapons separately:**

Date (Month-Year)	Processing Centre	New granted	New refused	Renewed granted	Renewed refused	Revoked	Total
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In response to your request, 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, whilst our firearms licensing system does include a tool to allow statistical analysis, due to an IT change, we are not currently able to access this tool.

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Whilst work is ongoing for this functionality to be restored, we do not have a timescale for this at present.

Therefore, the only way to obtain the information requested would be to individually examine each firearms certificate currently issued and well as those issued since the system was implemented in January 2015 to obtain the information requested.

Due to the number of certificates we issue on an annual basis, it would take a large amount of time to complete your request. To give some idea as to the scale of this task, when our most recent statistical publication was produced in March 2022 there were 25,345 firearm certificates, 44,503 shotgun certificates and 33,013 air weapon certificates on issue. It is estimated that it would take thousands if not tens of thousands of hours to produce the requested information.

Police Scotland have assessed that the £600 cost limit within the Act equates to 40 hours of work and so this part of your request would breach the cost threshold.

To be of some assistance however, please find a link below to our firearms licensing page on our website. Statistical returns for the past 4 years are available which includes most of the information you have requested. It does however not have the monthly breakdown asked for.

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/firearms-and-explosives-licensing/>

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.