

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2592  
Date: 16 December 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.

**Q1 Please disclose every incident recorded since January 1, 2017 that contain one or more of the following search terms: 'Stag' 'Stags' 'Hen' 'Hens'**

**Q2 Please disclose the incident exactly as it was recorded on each log, redacting any identifiable information which may prohibit disclosure.**

**For example: 'A male called (redacted) claimed that members of a stag party assaulted him outside of a nightclub in Front Street, leaving him with head injuries'**

**Q3 For each incident, please also disclose the time/date/location of the incident.**

We have recently researched a similar request for the time period 1 January 2021 to 31 July 2022 based on incident reports held within our STORM incident recording system that contain the word 'hen/stag'.

To explain, when a matter is reported to the police - usually by 101 or 999 call - or otherwise comes to police attention, an incident will be logged on this system.

I must stress however that Police Scotland do not consider key word searches for specific words/ phrases to be an accurate means of analysis.

First of all, the search results will include the word where it is part of a longer word - ie stage/ stagger/ then/ when.

Misspellings can be common given the fact that incident updates are being added in real time, usually whilst a caller is on the phone.

Words can be used in any context - a description of property saying it had a stag logo, the Stag bar, stags on the road, Mr Stag etc.

This initial search resulted in well over a million hits and was in relation to a significantly smaller time period than this request.

The search was then refined with leading and lagging spaces, and the number of records was reduced to 1625 contained within 1321 unique incidents (note: there may be multiple qualifying comment rows per incident).

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A cursory glance would suggest that the vast majority of these incidents *are not* relevant to the request however they would each have to be individually assessed to ascertain whether the word appeared in the appropriate context - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

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.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee at [foidundee@scotland.police.uk](mailto:foidundee@scotland.police.uk) 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.

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