| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-0466Responded to: xx March 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## For each of the past ten years, how many drugs warrants have been executed in Orkney?

## For each of the past ten years, how many of these warrants resulted in drugs being found? Please indicate the class of drugs found and the quantity.

## For each of the past ten years, how many of these warrants resulted in charges being brought for drugs offences? Please indicate the specific offences.

I have interpreted the term ‘drugs warrant’ to refer to the number of times an officer has entered a residential property to undertake a search,i.e. that a warrant was granted where there were reasonable grounds to suspect that a crime has been committed at a time and place and/or that evidence of the crime might be found at a certain place.

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.

In relation to recording, there is no single system for managing the administrative function of search warrants and each and every incident record would require to be reviewed, in order to ascertain the number of warrants granted during a certain time period, in a certain area and / or certain circumstances. Consequently a manual trawl of individual records would be required and this is an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

Initiating warrants is undertaken by Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Office (COPFS) and Police Scotland will subsequently execute the warrant according to the instruction contained within that warrant.

Search warrants are authorised to police officers under oath by a Procurator Fiscal (PF) or a Justice of the Peace (JP) and are commonly issued in pressing/dynamic circumstances.

Accordingly you may wish to direct your request to COPFS at the link below, who may be able to provide further information;

foi@copfs.gov.uk

Finally, you may be interested in the published crime statistics for Orkney which can be navigated to via the link below:

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/>

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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/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.