| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0561  Responded to: xx March 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I require data about the number of car crashes caused by emergency vehicles (fire trucks, ambulance and police) when responding to an emergency. Can you please provide this data?

I would first advise you that the gathering of this data is quite complex and the scope of your request precludes me from being able to gather the information requested.

In response to the element of ‘causation’ in your request, Police Scotland’s recording systems do not apportion blame to any individual. In this respect section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 applies: notice that information is not held applies to the question posed.

By way of assistance I have gone on to consider whether we can provide you with *any* related information.

In terms of emergency vehicles generally, there is no methodology which would allow us to cross reference whether any such vehicle was attending an emergency call. Moreover I am unable to identify ‘other’ emergency vehicles (e.g. Fire or Ambulance) from our RTC database without manual interventions, i.e. to be able to provide you with any accurate statistics a manual trawl of every RTC paper report would be required across the entire period.

On that basis I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with 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.

Notwithstanding the limitations described above, and to try and assist, I have provided you with details of any RTCs involving a police vehicle but ONLY for those recorded on the National CRASH system, from 3 July 2019.

For the avoidance of doubt, I must reiterate that this data does not confirm that the accidents was caused by the police vehicle, nor does it confirm that they were attending an emergency call at the time of the collision.

The number of incidents again precludes me from providing any further details as to do so would invoke the cost exemption detailed above.

**Table 1: ALL collisions involving a police vehicle – by calendar year**

| **Year** | **Number of collisions** |
| --- | --- |
| 2019 | 300 |
| 2020 | 555 |
| 2021 | 554 |
| 2022 | 548 |
| 2023 | 106 |
| Total | 2063 |

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 09/03/2023 and has been selected as it involved at least one police vehicle

On the 12th June 2019, CRaSH was implemented within D Division. On the 3rd July 2019, CRaSH was implemented across the other Police Divisions within Police Scotland. CRaSH replaced the existing procedures for recording Road Traffic Collisions.

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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) 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.