

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1652
Date: 25 August 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.

Total number of active warrants for failure to appear in a Sheriff and Jury Court as of August 1, 2022.

In response to this question, I can advise you that, as at 9 August 2022 there were 7372 persons recorded as wanted for an Apprehension Warrant within Police Scotland. This system is live and changes on a regular basis, as such it is not possible to supply a data for a specific date.

I can further inform you that I am unable to provide whether these warrants relate to Sheriff & Jury Courts, 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, due to the disparate systems across the country we are unable to break down the information further in relation to whether these warrants are fail to appear, the crime types or to establish those that are for Sheriff & Jury. This would require staff to access each individual warrant to confirm these details. As such, this is an exercise which would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

Of these, how many suspected criminals are unlawfully at large?

I would like the above information to be broken down by alleged offence (e.g. rape, homicide, sexual violence, etc.), as well as the years they were issued.

In response to this question, I can advise you that Section 12(1) of the Act would apply as above.

By way of explanation, each and every one of the live warrants would have to be examined and crossed referred with various other systems such as Criminal History

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System and Police National Computer to establish the status of the offender, the type of warrant issued and the nature of the original reported offence. As such given the numbers involved this is an exercise which would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee at foi@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 or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalrnock, 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 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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