

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2377
Date: 16 November 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.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, can your authority reveal how many incidents of police officers being attacked with fireworks per year happened between 2013 and 2022?

There are two different data sets held in relation to your request.

In relation to crime data first of all, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with all 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, the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to examine all crime reports of assault against emergency workers to establish the circumstances and whether the victim is recorded as a police officer on duty.

To illustrate, data just for Q3 (which would include the months of October and November) for the years 2013/14 to 2019/20 show that there were 1,777 recorded crimes under this classification. Therefore this is an exercise which would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

You can access our published crime statistics via the following link:

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/f5slniok/mmw-area-data-q-3-2019-20.xlsx> and [How we are performing - Police Scotland](#) - Group 6 refers.

The second data set is information recorded by our People and Development Department in relation to officers injured due to assaults which involve either fireworks or pyrotechnics.

As of 14 November 2022 the following has been recorded:

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2019-2020 = 26

2020-2021 = 4

2021-2022 = 24

I can further advise you that in April 2019 there was a change to recording mechanisms. As such, in terms of section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, corresponding information for the period prior to that date is not held.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee at 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 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 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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