| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1186  Responded to: 06 May 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I would like to request information under the Freedom of Information Act concerning the issuing of firearms certificates and inspections over the past five years. I would like to know the number of firearms certificates issued over the past five years.  
The number of new certificates issued.  
Can I have figures for the number of applications and refusals.  
Can you break down the number of firearms held by type?**

The information sought is held by Police Scotland, but I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the section 25(1) exemption applies:

“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it […] is exempt information”.

The information sought is publicly available: [Firearms and Explosives Licensing - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/firearms-and-explosives-licensing/)

**The number of inspections. Can I have this broken down to inspections of new firearms certificate applications and renewal applications.**

All new grant applications receive a home visit.

With regards to renewal applications, unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

By way of explanation, renewal enquiries receive a home visit based on a risk assessment. Statistics on the number of renewal enquiries that receive a home visit are not retained.

To provide this information would require a manual review of all renewal forms to ascertain if a home visit was carried out. As such, this is an exercise which would exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

**Also, could I have information on the number of firearms offences investigated by your force where the weapon was legally held (or had a firearms certificate).**

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

By way of explanation, there is no search parameters that allow us to differentiate between a firearms offences involving legally held or illegal firearms. A manual review of all records would be required.

**Can i also find out the number of legally held firearms reported stolen over that period.**

There have been 19 reports of stolen firearms in Scotland since 2020.

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](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) 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.