Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1157
Date: 17th June 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.

This is a freedom of information request to ask how many drivers have been caught for having an illegal license plate

Having considered your request in terms of the above Act, 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.

By way of explanation, crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the Scottish Government Justice Department offence classification codes and are not thereafter sub-categorised.

In this instance, the relevant offence is *Registration or Identification Mark Offences (Not Lighting).*

It is estimated that there is in the region of 1,000 recorded crimes per year recorded under this offence, and the only way to provide an accurate response to your request is to carry out case by case assessment of each.

Although you have not provided a time period in your request, even if we were to carry out individual assessment of all reports for one year only, it would be an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

How many you have actually reported to the DVLA.

In response to this part of your request, I must advise you that there is no automated notification sent to the DVLA when an offence has been reported. Notification to the DVLA for such offences requires that the individual officer notifies the DVLA separately.

As such, the only way to ascertain these figures would be to entail the trawling of each individual officer to establish that they sent a notification to the DVLA – an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the £600 cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

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.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management Dundee, 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.