

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0065  
Date: 01 February 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 summarised below together with the response.

**On how many occasions from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 did officers?**

- 1) Request assistance from Specially Trained Officers (STOs)**
- 2) Were denied that assistance?**
- 3) Were denied this assistance because STO's were not available?**

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.

By way of explanation, decisions around the deployment of Specially Trained Officers (STOs) to incidents are made by supervisors in the Area Control Room. Any decision is based on the specific circumstances of the incident and application of the National Decision Model (NDM).

Decisions and rationale are recorded on each incident in the form of plain text updates. This results in a wide variation in the words and phrasing used on each occasion which makes performing searches particularly difficult.

To illustrate, a search was conducted for the phrase 'STO' to give an idea of the volume of incidents which would require manual review which returned a total of 10,310 unique incidents.

Even at a very conservative estimate of allowing only one minute per incident, this would require over 171 hours to review - an exercise which would far exceed the cost limitations of the Act.

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.

## OFFICIAL

If you require further assistance or 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.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@scotland.pnn.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](mailto: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.