| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-0728  Responded to: 24 March 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## In a recent court judgment - [2025] SC WCK 8 - it was revealed that you have 'only eight police officers in the National Human Trafficking Unit' [para. 45]:

## Can you confirm that this refers to eight full-time officers?

Yes, there are 8 full time Police Officers working within the department.

## In the same judgment at paragraph 22 it states that you were awarded expenses:

## '22. On 17 June the pursuer was awarded expenses of the process between 3 November 2023 and 18 February 2024 on a party/party scale, the decision on the pursuer’s motion for the grant of an additional charge, and the pursuer’s motion for the expenses of the Hearing, both being reserved.'

## Please provide the amount of expenses you were awarded.

I can advise that Police Scotland does not hold all of the above requested information.

In terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that information is not held.

I confirm that on 10 June 2024 the Chief Constable was awarded expenses of Process between 3 November 2023 and 18 February 2024, but the Court reserved two decisions relating to expenses (the decision on the Pursuer’s motion for the granting of an Additional Charge, and the decision on the Pursuer’s motion for the expenses of the Hearing).

A hearing on expenses has been assigned for 3 April 2025 at Wick Sheriff Court.

Ultimately the question of expenses has not, yet, been fully determined by the Court.  Once determined, the next stage is to arrange for an account to be prepared and remitted to the Court therefore we are some distance away from being able to confirm an amount.

## Please provide the number of reports of human trafficking your National Human Trafficking Unit received in the year 2023/24 and the number of individuals they related to.

In 2023 National Human Trafficking Unit received 868 National Referral Mechanism (NRM) forms from the Home Office.

In 2024 National Human Trafficking Unit received 1062 NRMs.

Each one related to one Potential Victim of Trafficking (PVoT).

These were allocated out across Police Scotland for the local areas to investigate.

It is impossible to say how many National Human Trafficking Unit dealt with.

NHTU for the most part deal with protracted and or complicated enquiries as well as assisting divisional officers with enquiries.

Please note, not all reports which are received by our National Human Trafficking Unit are dealt with at that department.

## Please provide the number of completed contact forms you received in the year 2023/24.

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:

[How we are Performing](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/)

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.