| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-0647Responded to: 24th March 2023 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Due to the £74m Cop Chop please advise if this will reduce the number of police constables STO or otherwise who carry CED/Tasers particularly within the Fife jurisdiction of Kirkcaldy?**

**Please advise how many Police Federation Reps will be lost in the £74m Cop Chop?**

It is assumed that by ‘£74m Cop Chop’ you are referring to articles in the media in March 2023 concerning the Police Scotland budget.

As per the Police Scotland comments quoted in those articles, the chief constable has been clear that hard choices lie ahead to deliver effective policing within the revenue budget available.

At this time however, we are unable to answer the questions posed as the information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

The Police Scotland and Scottish Police Authority budget for 2022/23 is available online: [Financial Reports and Key Strategies - Scottish Police Authority (spa.police.uk)](https://www.spa.police.uk/about-us/budget-and-finance/)

The 2023/24 budget will be available at the same location in due course.

**And off this number how many federation reps have stolen the public’s mobile devices perverting the course of justice for their own personal gain of concealing evidence of their firearm criminality?**

In terms of section 14(1) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to respond to your request on the basis that I consider it to be ‘vexatious’.

‘Vexatious’ is not defined in the Act but I would refer to the following factors as set out in the Commissioner’s guidance:

1. It would impose a significant burden on the public authority
2. It does not have a serious purpose or value
3. It is designed to cause disruption or annoyance to the public authority
4. It has the effect of harassing the public authority
5. It would otherwise, in the opinion of a reasonable person, be considered to be manifestly unreasonable or disproportionate.

Furthermore, an authority can reasonably conclude that a particular request represents the continuation of a pattern of behaviour.

It might, in those circumstances, decide the request can be refused as the continuation of the pattern of behaviour makes the latest request vexatious.

This may arise, for example, where a requester has an on-going grievance against a public authority, or could reasonably be described as conducting an extended campaign to the point that their behaviour can be described as obsessive.

The purpose of FOI is to provide a right of access to recorded information and we respond to thousands of requests each year which seek to exercise that right.

We are committed to the principles of openness and accountability and that means focusing on those requests whereby individuals are genuinely motivated by accessing the information we hold.

It is my assessment that overall, your request has no serious purpose or value and in the opinion of a reasonable person, would be considered to be manifestly unreasonable or disproportionate.

I can confirm that your request has the effect of harassing Police Scotland in the circumstances and is both a burden and significant waste of resources.

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 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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by email 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.