

**OFFICIAL**

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1538  
Date: 12<sup>th</sup> August 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.

- 1. How many firearm certificate holders have been authorised by your constabulary to acquire or possess pistols be they single shot, double barrel, revolver or semi-automatic or other type of small firearms for the purposes of humane dispatch of animals.**
- 2. Which calibres have been authorised for this purpose and how many are held, for example, .22 x 5, .32 x 10, .38 x 5, .38/.357 x 5**

Following a clarification request, you confirmed that by “.22 x 5, .32 x 10, .38 x 5, .38/.357 x 5” you were referring to for example 5 .22 pistols and not .22 5 shot/chamber pistols.

In regards to your two questions, 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, our firearms licensing system is not designed to be interrogated to provide statistical information and whilst we are able to apply a filter to our firearms licensing system, we are not able to filter on more than one category at a time. We would therefore have to conduct a manual review of records in order to confirm how many of the first filtered set of results met your second criteria.

This is complicated by the format records are held in our firearms licensing system which holds individual letters and documents as separate files/entries attached to each licence record.

Due to the number of records involved and the time it would take to review each document within the records found, this is a task that would take a large amount of time to complete.

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Taking the smallest filtered dataset as an example would leave 394 records with associated documents which would need to be manually checked. At a conservative estimate of 10 minutes per record, this equates to over 65 hours of work to provide the information requested.

Police Scotland have assessed that the £600 cost limit within the Act equates to 40 hours of work and so this part of your request would breach the cost threshold.

To be of some assistance however, I can provide the following statistics.

Firearms Certificates for Pistols – 1,548  
Firearms Certificates with condition for humane dispatch – 394  
Firearms noted as .22, .32, .38, .38/.357 – 50,447

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management 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](mailto: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](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.