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Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2134
Date: 8th November 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.

Please accept our apologies for the delay in providing a response.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

Could Police Scotland inform me under the freedom of information act, how many “Welfare visits” in Moray and Grampian per year.

How many of them end in violence and damage to property.

How long do recipients of visits stay in cells, and are they stripped as part of the procedure. Also what training do the officers receive in mental health and the need for qualified mental professionals to examine the mentally ill individuals at the earliest opportunity.

What is the average time before the visited are transferred to hospital, how many of the mentally ill individuals are taken to court. What is the average time to inform next of kin or relative. Do Police Scotland inform the individuals GP.

Your request seeks information about individuals who are subject to ‘welfare visits’ from Police Scotland who are subsequently arrested and brought into police custody (and further detail re processes thereafter).

First of all, we are unable to provide data on ‘welfare visits’.

Whilst all incidents attended by police officers are recorded on our STORM incident recording system, there is no incident classification of ‘welfare visit’.

On that basis, section 17 of the Act applies and the information sought is *not held* by Police Scotland.

To be of assistance, I can further advise you that incident and custody data are held on two separate systems with no means to cross refer them other than case by case.

That means that even with incident data on one of our recording classifications, it is not possible to determine whether any of those incidents resulted in violence/ damage to property - or indeed a person being arrested and brought into custody - without case by case assessment of each incident report and then the details of any parties involved being searched on the custody system.

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That is an exercise that would undoubtedly exceed the FOI fee regulations.

Notwithstanding the above, you may be interested in the following information which detail custody, mental health and adult support and protection procedures:

[Care and Welfare of Persons in Police Custody SOP](#)

[Mental Health and Place of Safety SOP](#)

[Adult Support and Protection SOP](#)

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 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.