

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1076
Date: 14 June 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.

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to please request some information relating to the policing of music festivals under your policing authority.

If the festival(s) did not run in the years requested then I of course understand you cannot provide the data.

1. I would like to request the data for the following festival(s) within your authority:

- Terminal V Festival
- TRNSMT Festival
- Rewind Festival Scotland

3. I would like to request the total number of arrests made at the festival(s) in part 1 in 2021 and 2019, separated by year and festival.

4. If easily available, I would like to request the nature of the offense for the arrests provided in part 3.

5. I would like to request information on the total cost of policing the festival(s) in part 1 in 2021 and 2019, separated by year and festival, and who pays for the cost of policing these events.

The above requested information is provided below. I would ask that you note that in keeping with the Standard Operating Procedure for charging for Events all of these events have been subject to cost recovery where the Event Organiser has paid for the services of Police for their event.

Festival	Year	Cost	Number of Arrests
Terminal V Festival	2019	£1,704.25	14
TRNSMT Festival	2019	£ 66,472.47	44
Rewind Festival	2019	£0.00	*see below
Terminal V Festival	2021	Cancelled	N/A

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TRNSMT Festival	2021	£ 66,873.00	15
Rewind Festival	2021	Cancelled	N/A

* In relation to the Rewind Festival 2019, 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, a search has been undertaken of local records and provides no record of arrests, which matches the recollection of officers involved in planning the event, however, this is not conclusive.

To ensure an accurate figure would require an individual to manually review all recorded crimes for the period requested. For Greater Glasgow 2019/20 Q4 for crime groups 1 – 5 there were 48,131 recorded crimes. If we estimate that it would take 10 minutes to review each file this would total over 8,000 hours and at a cost of £15 an hour this task would exceed the cost and time threshold.

2. I would like to request the total number of police personnel deployed to the festival(s) in part 1 in 2021 and 2019, separated by year and festival.

This information is considered to be exempt in terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (the Act). Section 16 of the Act requires Police Scotland to provide you with a notice which: (a) states that it holds the information, (b) states that it is claiming an exemption, (c) specifies the exemption in question and (d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies. Where information is considered to be exempt, this letter serves as a Refusal Notice that information is held and an explanation of the appropriate exemption is provided.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested.

The exemptions that I consider to be applicable to the information requested by you are as follows:

Section 35 (1) (a) & (b) – Law Enforcement

The primary duty of Police Scotland at such events is to ensure the safety of those attending and the general public who may not be otherwise involved with the event. It is also incumbent on the Service to prevent crime, detect offenders and ensure the event proceeds with as little disruption to the community as possible.

Release of the information requested would adversely impact on the operational effectiveness of the Service in policing such events in the future, which would be similarly resourced. Being aware of the numbers of officers on duty on this occasion would allow persons or groups intent on committing offences, or causing disorder, with the means to make a reasonable assessment of the number of officers on duty at similar events in the

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future and thus to make an assessment of the capacity of the Service to deal with such eventualities at the time of the event.

Disclosure of this information would compromise any tactical advantage the police may have over such persons or groups when dealing with any crime or disorder.

Disclosure of this information would, or would be likely, to prejudice substantially the prevention or detection of crime.

This is a non-absolute exemption which requires the application of the public interest test.

Section 39 (1) – Health and safety

As previously stated above, the main priority for the Service in policing events of this nature is to ensure the safety of those attending the event and other members of the public. In addition, the safety of police officers who may have to deal with any crime and disorder at the event is also a consideration.

Where disclosure of information would adversely impact on the effectiveness of the Service in preventing crime and disorder then it follows that this would subsequently increase the risk to the safety of the public and police officers through them becoming victims of such conduct.

Release of the information therefore would, or would be likely to, endanger the physical or mental health or the safety of an individual.

This is a non-absolute exemption and requires the application of the public interest test.

Public Interest Test

Public awareness and accountability would favour a disclosure on this subject as it would contribute to the public debate surrounding the efficient and effective use of resources by the Service. However, in contrast, there is no public interest in disclosing information which is likely to damage the efficient and effective conduct of the police service in relation to its law enforcement role, or which is likely to have an adverse impact upon public safety.

As explained above, this would allow those intent on wrong-doing to gauge, with some accuracy, the level of specific police resources utilised, thus affording them the opportunity to take steps to circumvent the ability of the Police to deliver effective law enforcement provision, and placing themselves, members of the public and the police force at increased risk.

I consider that the decision must fall in favour of preventing crime and safeguarding the health and safety of the public. Accordingly, on balance, the public interest in disclosing the information requested is outweighed by that in maintaining the exemption detailed above.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Glasgow at – foi@scotland.police.uk – quoting the reference number given.

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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.