

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1944
Date: 30 September 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. Is your police force able to refer employees including staff members and police officers to foodbanks?**
- 2. How many police officers have been referred to foodbanks in the years 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022? Please provide these figures broken down by year.**
- 3. How many police employees have been referred to foodbanks in the years 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022? Please provide these figures broken down by year.**

In response to your request, I can advise you that there is no centralised/ formal process in place regarding this matter and the recording of any such advice given to officers/ members of staff would only be held in individual personnel files.

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, Police Scotland employs over 20,000 individuals, therefore to examine each of these records would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

I can further advise that our Employee Assistance Program might also offer advice if contacted by an officer/ member of staff in relation to financial difficulties but any record of those discussions would not be held by Police Scotland. As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee at foidundee@scotland.police.uk 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.

OFFICIAL

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.

OFFICIAL