

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1124
Date: 21 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.

Incidents involving the operation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems, or 'drones', recorded by Police Scotland between January 2022 and May 2022.

Specifically, I would like to know the following;

How many incidents did officers attend relating to the activity of drones broken down by month

Recorded Drone/UAS/UAV Storm Incidents

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Attended Drone/UAS/UAV Storm Incidents	28	24	35	26	22

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 26th May 2022.

How many drones were seized and the reason for the seizure

Having considered this question in terms of the above Act, 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 Drone/UAS/UAV specifically - could be seized as a production in absolutely any offence. There are no drone specific crimes which could narrow the search. On that basis alone, the process of determining whether any recorded offences involved the seizure of a Drone/UAS/UAV would be extremely time consuming, As such, the only way to provide an accurate response to this part of your request would be to individually examine every crime/police report for the time period requested to establish whether a

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Drone/UAS/UAV was seized - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

What training is given to officers regarding the legality of drone operation

At present there is no formal training given to officers. Guidance notes are available to help officers identify any offences etc.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee 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.pnn.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.

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