

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2090
Date: 24 October 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.

The number of offences committed using legally owned firearms and shotguns (i.e. subject to a current licence, being used by the licence holder or other approved person) over the past five years, to the most recent possible date - broken down by offence or offence group to the most detailed level possible

In response to your request, 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.

To clarify, our firearms licensing system is not required to retain the requested information for any policing or statistical purpose.

Consequently the only way to obtain the information requested would be to manually examine every firearms offence recorded in the past five years across multiple databases, an exercise which I believe would be a significant undertaking.

To give some idea as to the scale of this task, the Scottish Government's most recent statistical publication provides a snapshot of the number of firearms related offences, i.e. in 2019/20, we recorded 341 offences in which a firearm was alleged to have been involved, 332 such offences in 2018/19 and 348 in 2017/18.

Police Scotland have assessed that the £600 cost limit within the Act equates to 40 hours of work and I believe your request would far exceed the cost threshold.

The following links may be of interest in as much as they relate to the subject matter above:

OFFICIAL

Scottish Government offence statistics can be accessed via the link below:

[Recorded Crimes and Offences Involving Firearms, Scotland, 2018-19 and 2019-20 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

The firearms licensing page on our website provides statistical returns for all licensed firearms:

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/firearms-and-explosives-licensing/>

If you require further assistance or 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.