

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1226
Date: 23rd 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.

In each of the past three years how many individuals aged under 18 were arrested for offences involving firearms, air weapons or imitation firearms in each division? What age was the youngest of those individual arrested in each of those years in each division?

In response to these questions, 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, crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the Scottish Government Justice Department offence classification codes and in this instance, the relevant classifications include:-

- Reckless Conduct with Firearms
- Firearms, Miscellaneous Offences
- Possess a Firearm with intent to endanger life etc.

The crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no facility whereby the age of the Accused can be easily extracted, nor can a search be carried out by Accused's age.

As such, case by case assessment of all crime reports related to the above offences would have to be carried out to allow us to establish whether the Accused was under 18 years of age.

It is estimated that there are more than 1,000 detected crimes for the 3 year period requested, and individual examination of these is an exercise that would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

OFFICIAL

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.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.

