| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-0466  Responded to: 10 April 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

I would like to request the following information:

## How many so-called ghost guns have you seized in 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020 and 2019?

## How many 3D printed guns have you seized in 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020 and 2019?

In response to the two questions above, please see the table below. Please note that the data is correct at the time of extraction.

| **Year** | **Number of “ghost guns”/3D printed guns seized** |
| --- | --- |
| 2019 | 0 |
| 2020 | 0 |
| 2021 | 0 |
| 2022 | 0 |
| 2023 | 2 |
| 2024 | 0 |
| 2025 | 0 |

Please note, in 2023, two 3D printed firearms recovered. One of these recoveries referred to a genuine lethal barrelled 3D printed firearm, while the other was confirmed as incapable of discharging a bullet, shot or missile of any kind and was therefore, considered an imitation firearm.

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## How many components of ghost guns and 3D printed guns have you seized in 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020 and 2019?

Please see the table below. Please note that the data is correct at the time of extraction.

| Year | How many components of “ghost guns”/3D printed guns seized. |
| --- | --- |
| 2019 | 0 |
| 2020 | 0 |
| 2021 | 1 |
| 2022 | 3 |
| 2023 | 10 |
| 2024 | 0 |
| 2025 | 0 |

## How many incidents have you recorded involving ghost guns or 3D printed guns in 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020 and 2019? (Please give details of any incidents)

## As earlier noted, within the time period specified, only two incidents have involved a ghost gun/3D printed gun.

With respect to the details of the incidents, the information sought is held by Police Scotland, but I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the exemption set out at section 38(1)(b) of the Act applies - personal data.

Personal data is defined in Article 4 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as:

‘Information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person (“data subject”); an identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person’.

Section 38(2A) of the Act provides that personal data is exempt from disclosure where disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles set out at Article 5(1) of the GDPR which states that:

‘Personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject’.

Article 6 of the GDPR goes on to state that processing shall be lawful only if certain conditions are met. The only potentially applicable condition is Article 6(1)(f) which states:

‘Processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by the controller or by a third party, except where such interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject which require protection of personal data, in particular where the data subject is a child’.

Whilst I accept that you may have a legitimate interest with regards the disclosure of this information, I do not agree that disclosure could be considered necessary in the circumstances.

Notwithstanding, I am further of the view that your interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subjects.

On that basis, it is considered that disclosure of the information sought would be unlawful.

To be of assistance, I can advise that one incident was highly publicised, it took place within the Tayside area.

## How many 3D printed weapons of any type have you seized in

## 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020 and 2019?

In response to this question, please see the response to questions 1 and 2.

If you require any further assistance, please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.