| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-0026  Responded to: 31 March 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I would like to request information regarding drone operations near the BAE Systems facility in Scotstoun, specifically within the Flight Restriction Zone (FRZ) operated by Glasgow Airport.**

Clarification on the area was sought, and you provided the following additional information in relation to the location:

**The Flight Restriction Zone I am referring to is near the BAE Systems facility in Scotstoun. Specifically, I am referencing areas around the following postcodes:**

**PA4 8**

**G51 4**

**G14 0**

**I am seeking the following information:**

**1. The number of incidents reported to Police Scotland involving drones operating in or near the Flight Restriction Zone around BAE Systems Scotstoun since January 2020.**

I would ask that you note that all incidents which come to the attention of the Service are recorded on STORM, Police Scotland’s incident management system. An incident may well not involve recourse to formal criminal proceedings, as individuals report varying matters to the police, some of which allege criminality, and others merely report observations. All such calls are recorded on STORM as an incident; however, the recorded incident does not always result in a corresponding recorded crime.

If it is deemed a criminal offence has been committed a crime or offence is recorded on the Service’s Crime Management system and a crime report raised. Accordingly, there are two separate processes for the recording of incidents and crimes.

In relation to the number of incidents recorded referencing drones, I can advise that a total of 99 were recorded since 2020, at the specific postcodes provided.

I should also advise, that whilst researching it was noted that in some cases it may be that a postcode is not noted within the incident record, as such, there may be additional relevant records not identified at this time.

**2. The number of arrests made in relation to drone operations in this area during the same period.**

The Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 removed the separate concepts of arrest and detention and replaced them with a power of arrest without warrant - where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting a person has committed, or is committing, an offence.

When a person is arrested, a statement of arrest should be read over as soon as reasonably practicable, and details recorded in the arresting officer’s notebook.

A person is ‘Not Officially Accused’ (a suspect) when arrested *and* *not* cautioned and charged. They are ‘Officially Accused’ once arrested *and* cautioned and charged.

If conveyed to a police station, the arrested person will have their details recorded in our National Custody System.

There are situations however whereby a person must be released from police custody prior to their arrival at a police station - effectively they are ‘de-arrested’ - where the reasonable grounds for suspicion no longer exist. In those circumstances, the details of an arrested person are not held electronically.

As a result, we are unfortunately unable to collate comprehensivearrest data, as case by case assessment of all officer notebooks would be required - in addition to the partialarrest data held in the National Custody System.

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request and I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

For the reasons outlined above, Police Scotland do not collate data on arrests.

Instead, data is compiled and published based on recorded and detected crimes - [Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/).

Detected crimes are those where an accused has been identified and there exists a sufficiency of evidence under Scots Law to justify consideration of criminal proceedings.

**3. Any additional details on enforcement actions taken by Police Scotland in response to unauthorised drone activity in or near this Flight Restriction Zone (e.g., warnings issued, confiscation of drones, fines).**

Of the 99 incidents noted, 4 crime reports were raised. With 2 being detected crimes.

Detected crimes are those where an accused has been identified and there exists a sufficiency of evidence under Scots Law to justify consideration of criminal proceedings.

In both cases, the drones were confiscated and a report made to Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS).

As previously stated, there are recorded incidents with no postcodes noted. You may wish to provide a specific map of the area requested, allowing us to map the data to the specific area.

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.