

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1343
Date: 11 July 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.

1/ The annual number of a) offences and b) charges and court summons for different Home Office offence groups broken down by the location of the incident in either i) rural areas or ii) all areas within the force's jurisdiction in 2016 and 2021.

The offence groups forces are obligated to record are detailed here (eg. violence against the person, sexual offences):

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/977202/count-offence-classification-index-apr-2021.pdf

Please state clearly if the force does not have rural areas within its jurisdiction but provide the rest of the data (i.e. parts a and b for ii).

In response to this question, I can advise you that Home office classifications are not used in Scotland nor do we designate crimes locus as rural or otherwise in our recording systems. As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

2/ The number of officers who are stationed in rural areas for each year from 2015 to 2021 inclusive. This refers to the number of officers stationed (i.e. their principle base) in rural police stations. Ideally please provide their rank, but only if easily possible within the response timeframe.

I can advise you that police stations/buildings are not recorded as being rural or otherwise. As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

To be of assistance you can access information of Police Officer numbers in Scotland on our website: [Police Scotland Officer Numbers - Police Scotland](#).

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee at foidundee@scotland.police.uk 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.

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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.

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