| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-0046Responded to: 23rd January 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I would like to know the number of times police vehicles were used to take members of the public to hospital due to a shortage of ambulances from January 2020 to date.

## I would like the information broken down on a month by month basis with a brief summary of the incident, and the approximate location.

In response to your request, 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, there is no straightforward method to extract the information you require. In order to provide you with the necessary data, each recorded police incident for the time period specified would need to be manually examined to determine if officers had had to convey any medical case to hospital. I can advise that in a single week there are many thousands of police incidents, even with a significantly conservative estimate of 3 minutes per record this would greatly exceed the cost threshold set out within the Act.

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 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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by email 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.