| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-1660Responded to: 18 June 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Please provide me with the following information.

## The current number of Police Officers in Scotland for each of the last 5 years.

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 section 25(1) exemption applies:

“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it […] is exempt information”.

The information sought is publicly available:

[Police Scotland Officer Numbers - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/police-scotland-officer-numbers/)

## The overtime bill for each of the last 5 years.

The table below details total overtime paid by Police Scotland for the period 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2025.

The figures include all overtime claims that have not been cancelled.

| **Year** | **2020/21** | **2021/22** | **2022/23** | **2023/24** | **2024/25** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Total Overtime paid | £14,484,953 | £36,719,250 | £42,689,162 | £25,305,081 | £28,150,447 |

Embedded within the above overtime figures include several items that distort the normal “business as usual” overtime spend, such as one-off funded items like COP26 (2021), the bereavement of Her Majesty the Queen (2023) and the impact of COVID-19.

Available days has been calculated using the number of days available. Periods of sickness, maternity, annual leave etc have not been considered as part of this request.

Paid amount represents claims paid that others may have taken as Time off in Lieu.

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](https://www.foi.scot/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.