| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-1959Responded to: 18th July 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Please provide a breakdown of the number of breathalyser tests administered in each command area in each of the past five years

The table below details the number of roadside tests – both drug and breath - administered by Roads Policing officers in each command area over the past five years (2020-2024), inclusive:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Roadside Test** | **Command Area** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** |
| Drug Test | West | 2,356 | 2,257 | 2,301 | 2,661 | 2,856 |
|  | East | 1,056 | 984 | 933 | 927 | 1,101 |
|  | North | 2,045 | 1,699 | 1,362 | 1,667 | 2,063 |
| Breath Test | West | 5,479 | 4,237 | 4,303 | 5,975 | 5,071 |
|  | East | 5,577 | 3,713 | 4,651 | 6,347 | 7,331 |
|  | North | 9,005 | 3,933 | 5,636 | 6,470 | 5,871 |

It is important to note that the figures above relate to roadside drug and breathalyser tests carried out by Road Policing officers *only*.

We are unable to provide data for Local Policing officers as not all traffic stops on suspicion of drugged and/ or drunk driving will result in an incident or crime being recorded.

Therefore, the only way to provide an accurate and consistent response would be to retrieve and manually review the notebooks of *all* police officers on duty across each command area at the relevant period requested.

Given the volume of reports that would be required to be read through and collated for the five-year period specified, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request.

I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

## along with how many resulted in positive results for (a) alcohol and (b) drugs.

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”.

To be of assistance, for positive roadside-administered test results, I can advise that both recorded and detected crime data is publicly available on the Police Scotland website, broken down by Multi-Member Ward area: [Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/)

In this instance, the following crime classification descriptions will be of interest: “driving motor vehicle while under influence of controlled drug above prescribed limit”, and “driving motor vehicle with blood alcohol content above prescribed limit”.

Additionally, it should be mentioned that ‘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.

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.