| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25- 2739  Responded to: 01 September 2025 |
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## Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I am seeking recorded data held by your force that may show whether there is any correlation between immigration trends and crime rates in your area. My aim is to understand this issue based solely on evidence, without interpretation or commentary.**

## To that end, Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information:

## For the past 10 years (2015–2025), please provide annual recorded crime statistics for your force area, broken down by:

## Type of crime (e.g., violent crime, property crime, sexual offences, drug offences, etc.).

The information sought is publicly available:

[Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/)

[statistics.gov.scot : Recorded Crimes and Offences](https://statistics.gov.scot/resource?uri=http%3A%2F%2Fstatistics.gov.scot%2Fdata%2Frecorded-crime)

The information is therefore 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”.

## Offender nationality where recorded. Offender religion where recorded. If religion or nationality are not recorded – why?

## If available, please provide any reports, statistical datasets, or analysis your force holds regarding:

## Trends in offender nationality or religion over the past 10 years. Any correlations or patterns your force has documented between immigration status, religion, and crime rates.

Unfortunately, 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) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

For the time period covered by your request, we have no means of automatically extracting data about the nationality/ religion of accused individuals linked to crime reports, other than by case by case review of each report.

I can further advise you that neither nationality nor religion were mandatory fields within any of the systems used over that time period.

Police Scotland do not therefore routinely collate data regarding the nationality/ religion of accused individuals.

## The number of arrests […] of individuals identified as being in the UK without legal immigration status (“illegal immigrants”).

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.

**[…] or convictions […]**

Police Scotland does not hold criminal conviction data and section 17 of the Act therefore applies. You may wish to contact the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) and/ or the Scottish Courts Service.

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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) 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.