| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1718  Responded to: xx July 2023 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## How many individuals have been arrested in relation to a cannabis-related offence since 1 January 2023, specifically;

## - How many of these individuals have been charged

## - A demographic breakdown of the individuals arrested in the categories of sex, gender, nationality, age and ethnic group

## - A demographic breakdown of the individuals arrested in the categories of sex, gender, nationality, age and ethnic group

Having considered your request in terms of the Act, 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, the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to manually examine each and every misuse of drugs offence to identify those which relate to Cannabis use as neither custody nor crime recording system distinguishes between different drug types in a way that is searchable.

This is an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations – as an example, our published crime statistics shows that for the first quarter of financial year 2022/23 the number of possession of drugs crimes recorded was 6,156 for the period.

You can access these statistics via the following link: [How we are performing - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/)

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.