| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2199  Responded to: 21st September 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I would like to request details on data surrounding those arrested and brought into custody in Perth and Kinross and Fife over the course of the last four years, if that is possible?

In response to your request, I must first of all provide you with clarification on the custody facilities within the areas specified.

Prior to the Coronavirus pandemic, Perth was a full time custody centre, however as a result of the pandemic, Police Scotland implemented a revised Custody Operating Model. This revised model changed Perth from a full-time centre, to an ‘on demand’ centre, i.e. will only be open where there is an operational requirement to do so.

As such, individuals who were arrested and taken to police custody during this time within the Perth and Kinross area were taken to the full-time Custody Suite at Dundee which operates 24/7.

The Dundee Custody Suite takes in persons who have been arrested within the Tayside area, which includes Angus and also, the Perth and Kinross area. However, in addition to this, there are occasions whereby persons arrested in North East Fife are also taken to Dundee Custody Suite due to the geographical location. Kinross custodies are usually now taken to the Custody Suite at Dunfermline.

As such, we are unable to provide you with statistics which relate to the Perth and Kinross area specifically, as all custody records for Tayside and Fife would have to be individually examined to establish whether the individual was arrested within Perth and Kinross.

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 carry out this exercise.

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.

To be of assistance however, the data set out below provides the number of individuals arrested and brought into Custody for the Divisional areas of Tayside and Fife.

| **Year** | **2019/20** | **2020/21** | **2021/22** | **2022/23** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Tayside | 9,555 | 7,767 | 7,249 | 7,610 |
| Fife | 6,670 | 5,347 | 6,050 | 6,000 |
| **Total** | **16,225** | **13,114** | **13,299** | **13,610** |

I must stress that these figures should not be taken as statistics for *all arrests* within these areas as an individual can be released from police custody prior to arrival at a police station, effectively being de-arrested.

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.