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Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0828
Date: 04 May 2022



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

How many times in the last 3 calendar years an officer called for emergency assistance or pressed the red button while on duty because they either felt that they were at risk of assault or have been assaulted.

Please would you send me the figures you have on this in an excel format for 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 broken down by calendar year.

I would first like to emphasise that the safety of our staff and the public remains our priority at all times. Officers can request routine or urgent assistance in a number of ways and our teams at C3, Airwave and Training work hard to ensure our processes remain clear, accessible and effective.

However, in response to your request, 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, there are a number of ways in which an officer can make a request for assistance. In order to provide data with any confidence we would have to be able to reliably obtain it from a number of sources and verify whether or not it met the criteria requested.

As an example, one of the methods which can be used is to activate the emergency button on an airwave device. If an officer is not already attached to an incident, the airwave and command and control systems generate a new incident with the code AD-21. A search on the system for this code during the periods requested provided the following figures:

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Year	Initial code AD-21
2019	729
2020	802
2021	924
2022 (to 10/04/22)	186

This amounts to 2,641 incidents. In order to confirm if these were genuine activations, if they met the criteria requested and were not duplicates, a manual review would need to take place to assess each one and potentially cross refer with other systems.

At a conservative estimate of 5 minutes per incident this would take over 60 hours. This would also fail to capture activations from officers who were already attached to incidents as this is recorded separately and would require bespoke searches and manual review of all incidents raised during the period (over 1 million per year).

Police Scotland have assessed that the £600 cost limit within the Act equates to 40 hours of work and so this part of your request would breach the cost threshold.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to foi@scotland.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.