| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2081  Responded to: 11 September 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## How many times police officers have used pepper spray in the last year, two years and the last five years if possible?

I can advise the irritant spray in use by Police Scotland is PAVA, not pepper spray. In respect of the use of PAVA in relation to the question posed, please note the following usage;

Between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023 there were 195 incidences of irritant spray being discharged.

Between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2023 there were 400 incidences of irritant spray being discharged.

Between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2023 there were 1221 incidences of irritant spray being discharged.

Please note data is published on our website. I have copied a link below for future reference.

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/use-of-force/>

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.