

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0534
Date: 8th April 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.

I was hoping to find out how many fines and warnings Police Scotland have issued for people leaving their engines idling unnecessarily on public roads. I would like this information for the last 5 years.

In terms of Section 17 of the Act, I can confirm that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

By way of explanation, vehicle idling has been decriminalised and as such is no longer a matter for Police Scotland.

Offences are managed by the relevant local authority. In order to establish the data required you may wish to contact or submit FOI requests to each authority.

I would also like to know what guidance police officers are given to reduce unnecessary engine idling.

I would also like to see copies of guidance given to police offices to prevent them from having idling engines while on patrol cars.

The following guidance has been extracted from a Health and Safety notice issued to officers that states:

Vehicle idling should be kept to a minimum at all times. Vehicles do not need their engines running for blue light equipment to continue to operate.

Please note that while the guidance notes that Police vehicles do not need engines running for blue light equipment to function it is worthy of note that this is not the case for all police vehicles. Some police vehicles use auxiliary batteries which will power lights with the engine switched off and others will require the engine to run in idle to power lights which is required for locus protection and the protection of members of the public and officers.

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

OFFICIAL

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.