

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1459
Date: 02 August 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.

Please could you provide for me the following information regarding the numbers of people deemed to have taken their own lives (suicide) in Scotland.

- 1. Could I have the figures for Scotland (by police region) for 2020 and 2021, and for the first half of 2022?**
- 2. Could I have the figures by major city?**
- 3. Can this information be broken down into male / female and age brackets?**
- 4. Can this information be divided into any other specificity (ie drugs overdose etc)**

I must advise you first of all that National Records of Scotland publish information regarding the prevalence of suicide and suspected drug related deaths in Scotland.

Information is available online split by local authority area (table 5):

www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/vital-events/deaths/suicides

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/suspected-drug-deaths-scotland-april-june-2021/>

I can advise you that sudden death reports are submitted by Police Scotland to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service.

In respect of those, 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 systems that we have in place, cannot search death reports to COPFS by the *alleged* circumstances of the death, meaning each report would have to be

OFFICIAL

individually assessed - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulation given the scope of your request.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee at foidundee@scotland.police.uk 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.

OFFICIAL