

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0968
Date: 25 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.

Details of any National & Local guidelines relating to prescribed medicines management processes within Custody Suites – to include weblink or provision of documents

You should first of all note that medical provision for prisoners is the responsibility of NHS Scotland.

The management of all medication given to an individual whilst in police custody is the responsibility of the NHS Healthcare Professional.

Notwithstanding, please be advised that information regarding Care and Welfare Standard Operating Procedures is publicly available.

As such, in terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought.

Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

- (a) states that it holds the information,
- (b) states that it is claiming an exemption,
- (c) specifies the exemption in question and
- (d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at Section 25(1) of the Act - information otherwise accessible:

“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under Section 1(1) is exempt information” The information you are seeking is available on the Police Scotland website at the following link

www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/policies-and-procedures/standard

The nature and incidence of reported medication errors arising from issues around medicines management (eg failure to prescribe medications, failure to administer, wrong medicines / dose administered etc) within Custody Suites

The nature and incidence of reported adverse effects arising from issues around medicines management within Custody suites

Any issues relating to the quality of medical provision in custody centres are recorded through the CJSD service review process, which enable incidents to be recorded and shared with the health board concerned so that lessons can be learned and future similar incidents prevented. Service reviews have 9 categories, one of which is 'medication issues'. The following information is held with regards service reviews per area for the past three years:

Health Board	2019	2020	2021
SEAT (east of Scotland Region)		2	3
Grampian		1	2
Tayside		2	
Ayrshire and Arran		2	
Lanarkshire		1	
Argyll	1		
Greater Glasgow and Clyde	1		
Total	2	8	5

To put these figures into context, throughput across the custody estate for each of these years was as follows:

	2019	2020	2021
Custody episodes	117,921	105,155	95,038

Medication issues in these instances included a variety of issues including issues regarding sourcing, prescribing or administering medication or an arrested person being affected by medication taken prior to entering the custody centre etc.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee 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.pnn.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.

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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.

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