| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1420  Responded to: 26 May 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I would like to receive statistics on the number of fatal cases from drug overdose over the period:**

**- 2022-2023  
- 2023-2024  
- 2024-2025**

**In particular, I am interested in data on the five most common drugs that lead to death. Please provide information on the following paragraphs:**

1. **The total number of deaths in Scotland for the specified periods.   
   also indicate the number of cases per 10,000 population of Scotland.**
2. **The number of deaths in Edinburgh for the specified periods.   
   specify the number of cases per 10,000 population of Edinburgh.**
3. **The number of fatal cases in Glasgow for the specified periods.   
   specify the number of cases per 10,000 Glasgow population.**
4. **Number of fatal cases in Aberdeen for the specified periods.    
   specify the number of cases per 10,000 Aberdeen population.**
5. **Number of deaths for each of the five most common drugs:** 
   * **opiates (including heroin, oxycodone, etc.)**
   * **Cocaine**
   * **mdma (ecstasy)**
   * **benzodiazepines**
   * **Cartfentanil**

**Please provide information on each of these drugs separately, if possible, and general statistics of fatalities.**

The information sought is held by Police Scotland, but I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the section 25(1) exemption applies:

“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it […] is exempt information”.

The information sought is publicly available. The official statistics for drug related deaths in Scotland are gathered and published by a partner agency - National Records of Scotland (NRS) -​ [Drug-related deaths in Scotland in 2023 - National Records of Scotland (NRS)](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/publications/drug-related-deaths-in-scotland-in-2023/).

More recent information regarding suspected drug related deaths is reported to the Scottish Government by Police Scotland and is also published online - [Suspected drug deaths in Scotland - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/collections/suspected-drug-deaths-in-scotland/)

## In addition, we are also refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the section 27(1) exemption applies:

“Information is exempt information if it is held with a view to its being published […] at a date not later than twelve weeks after […] the request for the information is made”.

Information for more recent months will be published at the links above within 12 weeks of this response.

I believe it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information be withheld from disclosure at this time, and that maintaining the exemption outweighs any public interest in disclosure

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](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) 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.