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Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2094
Date: 12th October 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.

- 1. The total amount of cash found in public and handed in to Police Scotland in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.**
- 2. The total number of individuals or organisations who reported the cash in those years.**

Please divide the above information by:

- 1. Whether it was returned to the owner, returned to the finder, or other.**
- 2. Who handed it in (e.g. individual, state organisation, private company).**

In response to your request, 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, our 13 lost property offices do not use a single system to record found property with a number of them still using paper based records for this purpose. Of those using an electronic system, several do not have a search facility that would allow this information to be automatically extracted.

Due to this, the only way to achieve complete and comparable figures across Scotland would be for records to be manually checked to obtain the requested information. Police Scotland receives between 40,000 and 50,000 pieces of found property each year and manually reviewing records would take hundreds if not thousands of hours to complete.

Police Scotland have assessed that the £600 cost limit within the Act equates to 40 hours of work and so this part of your request would breach the cost threshold.

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

Unfortunately, I do not believe there is a way you can refine your request which would allow Scotland wide figures to be provided.

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.