

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0519
Date: 08 March 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.

The number of times Police Scotland have deployed drones at events since January 1st 2015.

An event is any planned public event or social occasion or sporting competition about which Police Scotland has been notified. Police Scotland RPAS (drones) have been deployed operationally since May 2019. From May 2019 – February 2022 drones have been deployed at events on five occasions.

The number of times Police Scotland have received reports of illegal drone use at events.

Having considered this question in terms of the Act, 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, whilst we do have an incident classification code for incidents involving drones, the only way to provide an accurate response to this question, would be to examine thousands of incident logs, for the period stated in your request, to ascertain whether it was re deployment at an event - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

The protocol that Police Scotland follows when illegal use of drones is reported at events.

On receiving a report of a drone being flown at an event (initially described as flying illegally or not) Officers will be dispatched to trace the aircraft and note any complaint from the public.

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If a pilot is traced and offences are suspected, the matter will be reported to the local Procurator Fiscal.

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. 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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