

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0174
Date: 3rd 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.

Please, first of all, accept my sincere apologies for the delay in providing a response to your request.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

Mobile Fingerprint Scanners

- 1. The number of Mobile Fingerprint Scanners owned by your force in each year from 2015 to 2021 (inclusive).**
- 2. The number of times Mobile Fingerprint Scanners were used by officers in your force in each year from 2015 to 2021.**
- 3. The number of people who were scanned using mobile fingerprint scanners in each year from 2015 to 2021 (inclusive). If you record the data, please break this down by age, gender and ethnicity.**
- 4. Please list the databases against which your Mobile Fingerprint Scanners check for matches and (if you hold the data) the number of matches against each database recorded in each year from 2015 to 2021 (inclusive).**

Please be advised that Police Scotland does not utilise mobile biometric devices.

As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

Knife Arches

- 1. The number of (i) Knife Arches and (ii) Knife Wands owned by your force in each year from 2015 to 2021 (inclusive).**
- 2. The number of times Knife Arches were used by officers in your force in each year from 2015 to 2021.**
- 3. The number of people who were scanned using (i) Knife Arches and (ii) Knife Wands in each year from 2015 to 2021 (inclusive). If you record the data, please break this down by age, gender and ethnicity.**
- 4. The number of offensive weapons discovered through the use of (i) Knife Arches and (ii) Knife Wands in each year from 2015 to 2021 (inclusive)**

In terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

To explain, deploying a Ferro-guard device to problematic premises and events can act as a deterrent to weapon carriers and should be utilised in conjunction with a premise or events condition of entry. The police can support its use if requested by the event's organisers or management of the premises. Any activation linked to a person will provide an opportunity for engagement, which may then assist officers in establishing reasonable grounds for search using legislative power or may allay any suspicion avoiding the need to search a person.

Mobile Phone Data Extraction

For this part of your request, I have interpreted your request to be in relation to Digital Triage Devices.

1. The number of Mobile Phone Data Extraction devices owned by your force in each year from 2015 to 2021 (inclusive).

Police Scotland have a total of 41 Digital Triage Devices located across the country that focus on *Mobile Phone Data Extraction*. These were rolled out during the calendar year 2020.

2. The number of times Mobile Phone Data Extraction devices were used by officers in your force in each year from 2015 to 2021.

Please be advised that this information is publicly available on the Police Scotland website.

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 under the ‘Data Publication’ section:-

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/specialist-crime-division/cybercrime-investigations-and-digital-forensics/cyber-kiosks/>

3. The number of people whose phones were subject to Mobile Phone Data Extraction devices in each year from 2015 to 2021 (inclusive). If you record the data, please break this down by age, gender and ethnicity.

OFFICIAL

In response to this part of your request, I must advise you that Police Scotland do not record information at this intricate level. In part, this is due to the fact that ownership is not always clear and/or the device may belong to more than one person.

As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

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.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.

