

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1549  
Date: 03 August 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.

### **Please provide what training police officers receive to deal with public with mental health issues / crises**

In response to this question, probationary officers are provided with a lesson on Mental Health and Suicide Awareness. The aim/learning outcome of this is to identify signs and symptoms that may indicate a person may be in mental health distress or at risk of suicide. The lesson goes on to explore The Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 and how its principles are aligned with the values of the Human Rights Act, 1988. The lesson further goes on to explore S297 of the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 and our power to remove a person to a place of safety when experiencing mental health crisis in a public place.

A number of the principles above are also covered in Operational Safety Training, specifically dealing with individuals experiencing Acute Behavioural Disturbances.

All of these principles above are supported by Police Scotland's Core Values of Fairness, Integrity, Respect and Human Rights,

Officers may receive additional training over the course of their career as appropriate to their role that has Mental Health element.

### **Please provide figures for past 5 years where police have taken members of public experiencing mental health issue to a psychiatric unit**

### **Please provide figures relating to where police have taken public to unit after a sexual assault or report of physical violence for past 5 years**

Having considered these questions 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.

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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, with no searchable fields on incident/ crime systems, the only to provide you with this information in an accurate and consistent manner would be to individually examine each and every crime and incident report for the years requested to establish if it met the specific criteria outlined in your request. There are no relevant markers which allow the automatic retrieval of this level of information.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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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