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Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1754
Date: 14th September 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.

For every year for the past 5 years (calendar year or tax year, I don't mind), please can you give me a list of incidents were attended by officers at the Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital, Royal Hospital for Children & Young People in Edinburgh, Tayside Children's Hospital in Dundee and the Hospital for Children in Glasgow, including

- a) the date of the incident**
- b) the age of the patient involved**
- c) the alleged offence(s) committed and/or any other details of call (eg police needed to help restrain suicidal 15 year old)**
- d) whether any action was taken (caution/charge etc)**

Following a clarification request you confirmed the following:

I would take as children anyone aged 17 or under, but if it's easier for you to stick to 16s and under, that's fine. Just let me know. In terms of your second question, I was hoping that incidents would be specifically recorded as happening in the children's hospitals I mentioned (rather than just paediatric wards at general hospitals). Is it possible to run the search and see what comes back just for children's hospitals?

Perhaps you could let me know what results are returned and if you think it will exceed the cost limit to provide all the information we can agree what to prioritise?

Firstly, in regards to the Royal Hospital for Children & Young People in Edinburgh I must advise that only figures from 23rd March 2021 onwards have been searched for as this was when this hospital first came into use. In regards to the period prior to this, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information requested is not held by Police Scotland.

In response to the rest of 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.

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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 I note that you have asked for your search to be conducted for just children's hospitals, a review of the data returned has confirmed that a number of incidents at each child hospital is noted with the address of the wider hospital complex rather than the specific child hospital. Whilst it is likely the precise locus is contained within the free text incident log entries, a manual review would be required to obtain this.

In order to obtain accurate figures for your request, 8,021 incidents would need to be manually checked to confirm firstly if the incident took place within the children's hospital and then for the details you have requested. This would include checking whether officers attended the incident, the age of the patient involved which may involve crime systems being cross referenced, the alleged offence and whether any action was taken. At a conservative estimate of 5 minutes per record, this equates to over 668 hours of work to provide the information requested.

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.

I note that you have asked if your request could be refined to be completed within cost but even limiting the request to the most recent full year of 2021 would leave 1,531 records to check which equates to over 127 hours of work to provide the information requested. I therefore do not believe it would be possible to reduce the scope of your request and still provide meaningful statistics.

Finally, I would advise that should your request have been possible within the cost limits of the Act, the list of incidents along with specific breakdown requested would likely have been exempt under Section 38(1)(b) – Personal Information due to the likelihood of individuals being identified.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management 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.

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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.