| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1938  Responded to: 15 September 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## The under noted is an FOI response to a Freedom of Information request made to the City of Edinburgh Council - it is published on their website, the request was not made by me.

## Notwithstanding, can you please advise as follows:

## "42968

## How many children were excluded from school after being found to be under the influence of illegal substances/drugs and/or in possession of illegal substances/drugs either on school premises or during a school trip in the financial years April 2019/ to 2023 (to date)? What were the age ranges of the children involved?

## Session Number Age Range 2019/20 17 15-17

## 2020/21 7 14-16

## 021/22 29 9-16

## 2022/23 20 12-15

## Exclusions due to Substance misuse – not alcohol

## What types of substances were involved or recovered, i.e. cannabis, cocaine or class A, B, C?

## Please note that this information is not held. Did any of the incidents require police involvement, and if so please provide some details if possible?

## My FOI request to Police Scotland: can you please provide all information held by you in these matters ie 72 exclusions.

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, there is no straightforward method to extract drug related information relating to a school.

To extract the data a search would need to be completed individually on each school, any drug related matters could then be extracted, however, to identify if any record related to one of the identified exclusions each record would need to be manually examined. There is an excess of 100 schools that would need to be assessed, this could produce thousands of records that require manual assessment.

I believe that this is an exercise that will greatly exceed the cost threshold set out within the Act.

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.

Should you wish to significantly reduce the scope of your request, by identifying specific schools then it may be the case that some information could be provided to you, however it is worthy of note that specifically identified schools may not be relevant to the 72 exclusions noted, as such this would mitigate any meaningful comparative data.

## Meantime it may be on your website but I cannot find it, can you please provide detail;s of any drugs training delivered to Edinburgh Council schools by Police Scotland in the referenced years.

In 2022, Police Scotland in collaboration with the charity ‘I am Me’ Scotland produced a Substance Awareness Education package which is available for delivery by Police Scotland officers within Scotland’s High Schools.

The delivery and therefore outcomes are year group specific.

Prior to 2022, Police Scotland School Liaison Officers created and delivered their own programs within their local area. Although content and delivery differed, learning outcomes were aligned which are listed below:

* To have an enhanced awareness and understanding of the problems caused by drugs and alcohol in Scotland.
* To be more aware of the laws and police powers related to tackling drugs and alcohol in Scotland.
* To have an increased knowledge of the effects of drugs and alcohol, and understand the impact, consequences, and risks of both.
* To have a greater awareness of interventions and support services available, and how to report crime or wellbeing concerns.

If you require any further assistance, please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.