| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1188  Responded to: 25th May 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Please tell us how many people aged 16 and under were arrested in the Inverness area command patch in 2022. Please include any details of the incidents which you are able to, and the number of individuals at each age (eg seven 15-year-olds).

## Please tell us how many people aged 16 and under were arrested in the Inverness area command patch in 2021. Please include any details of the incidents which you are able to, and the number of individuals at each age (eg seven 15-year-olds).

## Please tell us how many people aged 16 and under were arrested in the Inverness area command patch so far to date in 2023. Please include any details of the incidents which you are able to, and the number of individuals at each age (eg seven 15-year-olds).

In 2018, the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 removed the separate concepts of arrest and detention and replaced them with a power of arrest without warrant - where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting a person has committed, or is committing, an offence.

When a person is arrested, a statement of arrest should be read over as soon as reasonably practical and details recorded in the arresting officer’s notebook.

A person is ‘Not Officially Accused’ (a suspect) when arrested *and* *not* cautioned and charged. They are ‘Officially Accused’ once arrested *and* cautioned and charged.

If conveyed to a police station, the arrested person (of either classification) will have their details recorded in the Police Scotland National Custody System.

The Act however also provides for certain situations whereby a person must be released from police custody prior to their arrival at a police station - effectively allowing the police to ‘de-arrest’ that person where the reasonable grounds for suspicion no longer exist.

In those circumstances, the details of an arrested person are not held electronically.

As a result, we are unfortunately unable to collate comprehensivearrest data as case by case assessment of all officer notebooks would be required - in addition to the partialarrest data held in the National Custody System**.**

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.

If you would be interested in data regarding individuals arrested *and* brought into police custody then please let us know.

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.