| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-2070  Responded to: 16 July 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**1. Where does your firearms training the place.**

Armed Policing Training have five training locations across Police Scotland, which are situated in Aberdeen, East Kilbride, Glenrothes, Inverness and Kincardine.

We also work closely with external partners to access other estate, as such training can and does take place in numerous locations to suit the needs of the training being delivered.

**2. How long have NFIC instructors been in receipt of instructor specific allowances or targeted variable payments.**

National Firearms Instructor Course (NFIC) instructors do not receive specific allowances or targeted variable payments unless certain conditions are met, which are applicable to all police officers up to and including the rank of Chief Inspector.

Details on Pay, Allowances and Expenses, including conditions detailing eligibility, are published in the Police Scotland [Pay, Allowances and Expenses Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)](https://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/policies-and-procedures/standard-operating-procedures/standard-operating-procedures-a-b/) and also annually by the Scottish Government and Police Negotiating Board (PNB).

**3. How many instructors are currently employed.**

There are 59 full time and 17 part time instructors

**4. How many officers attend firearms training per annum. 2023-2024.**

As published in our [Armed Policing Report 2023/24](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/armed-policing-quarterly-reports/armed-policing-report-2023-24/), there were 518 Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs) within Police Scotland during 2023/24.

This figure was correct on the day of publication, however, will have fluctuated daily through the year due to a variety of factors.

AFOs will attend a minimum of 16 days training per year.

Depending on additional specialisms or skill sets, this may increase significantly.

**5. Are you governed by the college of policing.**

Armed Policing is licensed by the College of Policing to deliver The National Police Firearms Training Curriculum.

**6. Why does this job role receive these allowances and what are they for.**

This role does not receive allowances unless certain conditions are met, which are detailed in our [Pay, Allowances and Expenses SOP](https://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/policies-and-procedures/standard-operating-procedures/standard-operating-procedures-a-b/).

**7. If based of a targeted variable payment basis, what targets are necessary to meet criteria.**

Targeted variable payments are not applicable to Police Officer Pay, Allowances and Expenses. I would refer you again to our [Pay, Allowances and Expenses SOP](https://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/policies-and-procedures/standard-operating-procedures/standard-operating-procedures-a-b/).

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](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) 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.