| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 24-2880Responded to: 10 December 2024 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**How much money has Police Scotland paid to police informers for information in 2023 and 2024?**

I can advise the amount spent in 2023 was £321,419.41.

With regards to the figure for 2024, I would encourage you to apply for the information once the full year data is available.

In the meantime, in terms of section 18 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to confirm or deny whether any such information is held.

Section 18 provides that an authority does not have to confirm whether or not information is held where:

* If the information were held, it would be considered exempt from disclosure in terms of any of sections 28 to 35, 38, 39(1) or 41 of the Act; and disclosing whether or not information is held would be contrary to the public interest
* If held, I consider that information held would be exempt from disclosure as described in the exemptions laid out above:

In this instance the following exemptions apply;

Section 31(1) - National Security and Defence

Section 34(1)(b) - Investigations

Section 35(1)(a)&(b) - Law enforcement

I would first of all advise you that the use of Covert Human Intelligence Sources (CHIS) by the Police is a long-established technique and regarded as a very effective investigatory tool. CHIS can provide unrivalled access to crime groups and play an integral role in the gathering of intelligence used to combat and reduce crime. The results achieved from intelligence greatly outweigh the cost of rewards paid to CHIS.

Disclosure of any data relating to the use of CHIS would reveal the extent to which the use of covert information is used in a particular area, which if replicated across the country would potentially alert criminals who would be able to make decisions based on those assumptions.

It is acknowledged that Police Scotland’s covert activities have fuelled the public interest in how often certain tactics are deployed. Disclosing whether information is held would potentially serve to better inform the public of policing activities.

On balance, disclosing whether information is held would compromise the future law enforcement role of the force, the safety of individuals and put the public at risk. It is therefore considered that it would be contrary to the public interest to disclose whether information is held.

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 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 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.