| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-1910Responded to: 18 July 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Are you able to tell me how many people claimed the essential users lump sum, each year over the last 3 years.

Essential User payments fall into two distinct categories:

* an agreed monthly payment made to police dog handlers who are not provided with a van to transport the dog(s) to and from their workplace.
* Essential User motor vehicle allowance for travel carried out as part of an officer’s tour of duty. It can be claimed if the Designated DCC considers it essential for them to have access to their own vehicle to carry out their normal duties. Furthermore, specific posts have been identified as being suitable to claim this allowance where it is essential to have a car available at all material times. Note: the lump sum element of the allowance is paid monthly and is not ‘claimed’.

For the period 1 April 2022 – 16 July 2025, 453 individuals have been paid essential user lump sums - to be of assistance, I have detailed how many of the individuals were dog handlers:

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| **Year** | **Total Individuals Paid** |
| 2022/23 | 126 (including 42 dog handlers) |
| 2023/24 | 116 (including 45 dog handlers) |
| 2024/25 | 110 (including 53 dog handlers) |
| 2025/26 ytd | 101 (including 54 dog handlers) |

## Can this be broken down into which division/area they work

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

By way of explanation, we can only categorise claims by the cost centre to which the payment was charged each month, and due to cost centre changes we cannot guarantee the accuracy of the division/ area.

The only way to collate this accurately would be to manually assess each individual claim to identify the division.

This is clearly an exercise that would far exceed the cost threshold outlined within the Act.

The cost centre information can be provided if it is of interest - either including or excluding the dog handler element.

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.