| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-2064  Responded to: 16 July 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**For the 20/21, 21/22, 22/23, 23/24 and 24/25 year periods: On how many occasions have armed police been deployed to an incident, which was then treated as a 'malicious call'?**

**Please could this information be broken down by year.**

**If obtaining this information exceeds the cost threshold, could I please filter the request for just the 23/24 and 24/25 year periods. And if that too exceeds the cost threshold, could I please filter the request for just the 24/25 year period.**

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, incidents aren't categorised as 'malicious' on our incident recording system and so we are unable to search armed police deployments based on whether it was a false/ malicious call. There is no search facility available which would allow us to automatically retrieve relevant incidents. We would therefore have to review all 3244 armed policing deployments for the time period requested to establish the circumstances and identify those relevant to your request, an exercise which would clearly far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

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.