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Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0997
Date: 13th May 2022



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

I would stress that the information provided below has been generated from the Police Scotland Coronavirus Information database.

The application was designed for management information purposes only and relied upon police officers manually recording relevant engagement with members of the public therein.

The functionality was developed over the course of the pandemic and in the earlier periods, whilst all interventions ought to have been recorded, the nature of the intervention - ie that it related to masks/ face coverings - may not have been captured.

Taking into account all of the above, the data may not therefore be wholly accurate but it is what we hold in respect of your request.

Further data that may be of interest is available on our website:

[Enforcement and response data - Police Scotland](#)

Throughout the pandemic our officers have engaged with the public in a positive and constructive tone, using the powers afforded to them as a last resort where people defy very clear and sensible advice, designed to protect them from harm.

The '4 Es' approach has been used throughout - which is:

Engage: ask whether an individual is aware of the government request. They'll establish individual circumstances and how quickly someone can comply.

Explain: the risks to public health and to the NHS in line with government guidance.

Encourage: voluntary compliance.

Enforce: if faced with non-compliance. This is a last resort.

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Can you tell me how many fines were issued in Scotland as a result of people breaking the rules regarding the wearing of face coverings?

Police Scotland have issued a total of twenty relevant Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) since the law came into place.

I can further provide from the recorded interventions that relate to masks/ face coverings, forty individuals complied when informed, twelve complied when instructed, four were removed from a premises and fourteen were arrested.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.