| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0268  Responded to: 08 February 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## For the years 2000 to 2022 (or the latest year that is available):

## a) how many applicants were there to Police Scotland for police officer entry;

## b) what percentage of those applicants were successful;

## c) how many police officers commenced training in each year

In response to these questions, I can provide the following:

| **Financial Year** | **Total Applicants** | **% successful** | **Total appointed** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2021/2022 | 2237 | 20% | 442 |
| 2020/2021 | 5611 | 8% | 430 |
| 2019/2020 | 4228 | 24% | 1017 |

Please be advised that Police Scotland was established on 1 April 2013. It should also be noted that as per [record retention](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/nhobty5i/record-retention-sop.pdf) rules unsuccessful applicant data is no longer held prior to 2019/2020. As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

## d) what were the reasons for applicants being unsuccessful (please provide percentage breakdown for each reason if possible across the years).

In response to this question, in terms of the Act, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

By way of explanation, the reasons for anyone being unsuccessful and at what part of the process is not centrally recorded as such each individual’s file would have to be examined. As such this an exercise which I estimate would 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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) 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.