| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0112  Responded to: xx February 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## For each month from August 2018 to the present:

## 1. The total Police Scotland has charged Aberdeen FC for policing games at Pittodrie.

The requested information is provided by month & financial period in the table below:

|  | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23\* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| April | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| May | £9,963 | 0 | 0 | 0 | £2,768 |
| June | £15,944 | £17,225 | 0 | 0 | £102 |
| July | 0 | 0 | £6,039 | 0 | 0 |
| August | £25,649 | £2,122 | 0 | £2,824 | 0 |
| September | 0 | £11,780 | 0 | £2,634 | £2,235 |
| October | £2,424 | £17,501 | 0 | £11,963 | £6,161 |
| November | £5,987 | 0 | 0 | £16,255 | £16,477 |
| December | £18,444 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| January | 0 | £19,024 | 0 | 0 | £31,549 |
| February | 0 | £10,373 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| March | £34,313 | £2,408 | 0 | £42,186 | 0 |

\*up to date of request

## 2. The number of matches that were policed.

The requested information is provided by month & calendar year in the table below:

|  | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| January | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| February | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| March | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| April | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| May | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| June | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| July | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| August | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| September | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| October | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| November | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| December | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |

\*up to date of request

## 3. The number of officers deployed to police matches - with a breakdown where available of any specialist resource, such as mounted officers.

Specialist resources may also have been considered, including Roads Policing, Spotters, Evidence Gathering Teams, Mounted Police and Public Order officers.

The release of specific resourcing details for the games above has been considered under the Act and I must advise you that it has been necessary to withhold the information requested.

In terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought.

Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

(a) states that it holds the information,

(b) states that it is claiming an exemption,

(c) specifies the exemption in question and

(d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at:

## Section 35 (1) (a) & (b) – Law Enforcement

The information requested is exempt, as its disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice substantially the prevention or detection of crime and apprehension or prosecution of offenders. If the details of Police Scotland’s resourcing and tactics used for football matches and by association other similar events were to be disclosed, experience has shown that it would allow those intent on committing crime or causing disorder to gauge the likelihood of detection or to take measures to negate the likelihood of detection. It would allow criminals to plan how best to engage or occupy existing police resources in an effort to maximise their chances of committing serious crime, therefore harming the efficient and effective conduct of the service.

Such information would prove extremely useful information for persons involved in criminality as they would be able to plan and conduct their activities to avoid detection. It would confirm the resources dedicated to events which would allow those intent on wrong doing to judge the police response to a variety of incidents. In turn this would prejudice substantially the ability for our officers to prevent and detect crime and apprehend or prosecute offenders.

This is a non-absolute exemption and requires the application of the public interest test below:

I would suggest that public accountability may favour disclosure, given that the information concerns the efficient and effective use of resources by the Service. Likewise, disclosure of the information would also inform the public debate on the issue of policing football and contribute to the accuracy of that debate.

However the need to ensure the effective conduct of the service in relation to prevention and detection of crime and the public safety considerations involved in the delivery of operational policing clearly favour non-disclosure of the information requested.

On balance I would contend that any public interest in disclosing the information is outweighed by that in maintaining the exemptions listed. It can never be in the public interest to disclose information which would jeopardise the delivery of policing and the safety of individuals, nor prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

## 4. The number of arrests made at matches or directly related to them, where possible with a breakdown of the type of offence / suspected offence involved.

Over the course of the 37 policed matches detailed above, there has been a total of 28 arrests made for a variety of offences which are, Mobbing and Rioting, Culpable and Reckless, Drugs (possession), Assault, Attempt to Pervert, Sec 38s and Racial BOP.

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.