

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1841
Date: 20th September 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.

- 1) How many occasions has the force been used to take people to hospital since January 1st 2022 to date because an ambulance was not available?**
- 2) How many occasions has the force been used to take people to hospital from January 1 2021 to December 31 2021 because an ambulance was not available?**
- 3) If possible, without compromising confidentiality, please provide details of occasions when officers have been required to take people to hospital.**

In response to your request, 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, there is no straightforward method to extract the information you require. In order to provide you with the necessary data, each recorded police incident for the time period specified would need to be manually examined to determine if officers had had to convey any medical case to hospital. I can advise that in a single week there are many thousands of police incidents, even with a significantly conservative estimate of 3 minutes per record this would greatly exceed the cost threshold set out within the Act.

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

Whilst I would normally suggest a reduced timescale is considered, even a week of incidents is likely to exceed the cost threshold and so I do not believe meaningful statistics can be provided for your request.

OFFICIAL

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.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.