| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0275  Responded to: 21 February 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## A recent Public Health Scotland Publication said ‘Suspected drug deaths increased in October and November 2022, following a decreasing trend in recent months. There were 109 suspected drug deaths in November 2022. This is higher than in the same month in 2020 (93) and 2021 (89)’. (*Rapid Action Drug Alerts and Response (RADAR) quarterly ​report*, 24 January 2023, [link](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpublichealthscotland.scot%2Fpublications%2Frapid-action-drug-alerts-and-response-radar-quarterly-report%2Frapid-action-drug-alerts-and-response-radar-quarterly-report-january-2023%2F%23section-2-2&data=05%7C01%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7C0c6e16837f804c0f04e808dafee3c2e2%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638102551428171468%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=JDnfT9cWloeHIEBzTibm%2B4zw7qEopMmGMy9mCToLXRE%3D&reserved=0)).

## I have been advised that these figures were provided by Police Scotland and would like to ask for the following:

## 1. A breakdown of drug deaths in November 2022 by region

In response, please see the following table of Suspected Monthly Drug Related Deaths November 2022:

| Division | Confirmed / Suspected |
| --- | --- |
| A (North East) | 17 |
| C (Forth Valley) | 3 |
| D (Tayside) | 5 |
| E (Edinburgh City) | 7 |
| G (Greater Glasgow) | 18 |
| J (The Lothians and Scottish Borders) | 7 |
| K (Renfrewshire and Inverclyde) | 10 |
| L (Argyll and West Dunbartonshire) | 11 |
| N (Highlands and Islands) | 8 |
| P (Fife) | 8 |
| Q (Lanarkshire) | 10 |
| U (Ayrshire) | 8 |
| V (Dumfries and Galloway) | 5 |
| Total | 117 |

This data is sourced from management information from Police Scotland who compile figures on the basis of reports from police officers attending scenes of death. Classification as a suspected drug death is based on an officer's observations and initial enquiries at the scene of death.

Police Scotland monitor suspected drug deaths to inform prevention and enforcement activity. In order to provide a consistent count over time, all deaths originally classified as a 'suspected drug death' are included here, irrespective of their eventual final categorisation of cause of death.

The Police Scotland data presented here is Management Information (MI) and should not be considered as National or Official Statistics. MI is information that is based on administrative data used for operational purposes. It is used in the normal course of business to inform operational activity, prevention and enforcement activity. Whilst any data used goes through a process of quality assurance, MI is not always subject to the same level of validation and checking as Official Statistics.

You should also be advised that suspected drug related death data is updated when toxicology results are returned and as such this data will change on a daily basis. There will also be deaths which were never recorded as part of suspected drug related deaths data which following new information is then recorded as such.

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.