| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-0172  Responded to: 12 February 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

I would ask that you note that your original correspondence has been split into several individual requests due to wide scope and variety of subject matter therein. The remainder of your request will be answered separately.

## Staffing Levels and Overtime Costs

## *The total authorised number of officers and staff for each of the last five years.*

## *The actual number of officers and staff for the same period (if different from authorised levels).*

The information sought is held by Police Scotland, but I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the section 25(1) exemption applies:

“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it […] is exempt information.”

Data is available on the Police Scotland website:

[Police Scotland Officer Numbers - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/police-scotland-officer-numbers/)

In addition, the Scottish Government publish statistics on police officer quarterly strength, which gives the number of full-time-equivalent police officers employed by Police Scotland. This data is available on the Scottish Government website:

Police officer quarterly strength statistics Scotland

## *Overtime expenditure per year, and any relevant explanations for significant increases.*

Overtime costs for police officers and staff for the past five financial years are detailed in the table below:

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| **Accounting Year** | **Total** |
| 2020 | £19,428,586 |
| 2021 | £16,892,358 |
| 2022 | £40,617,919 |
| 2023 | £47,125,211 |
| 2024 | £28,711,099 |
| **Grand Total** | **£152,775,174** |

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| **Note 1** - Year represents the financial year up to 31 March each year |  |  |
| **Note 2** - Embedded within the above overtime figures include several items that distort the  normal “business as usual” overtime spend, such as one-off funded items like COP26 (2022),  the bereavement of Her Majesty the Queen (2023) and impact of COVID. | | |

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](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) 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.