| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-3162  Responded to: 9 January 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## i. Please provide a copy of Police Standard Operating Procedures for the carrying out of routine document checks on drivers of vehicles;

I can advise that Police Scotland does not hold the above requested information. In terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that information is not held.

By way of explanation, Police Scotland does not have such a Standard Operating Procedure.

Standard Operating Procedures combine guidance, information and instruction for officers and staff, however, not every eventuality is covered, accordingly, officers will require to exercise their professional judgement.

Officers and staff should at all times consider whether their actions represent the expectations and standards of the Service and demonstrate Integrity, Fairness and Respect.

## ii. Please confirm whether Police Scotland hold records of routine document checks carried out on drivers of vehicles by officers of Police Scotland;

iii. If the answer to the enquiry ii. above is in the affirmative then please confirm how many routine document checks on drivers were carried out in Scotland as a whole over each of the last three years for which records of this type were kept;

In accordance with Sections 12(1) (Excessive cost of compliance) and 16(4) (Refusal of request) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (the Act), this letter represents a Refusal Notice.

By way of explanation, this information is recorded in each police officer’s notebook and it is not centrally collated. To provide this information would require us to check with every police officer and search notebooks of all officers who retired within the timeframe requested. Currently Police Scotland have approx. 16,000 officers and as such this task would take well in excess of the 40 hours and £600 limits prescribed by the Scottish Ministers.

## iv. Please confirm how many routine document checks on drivers have been carried out since 1 January 2020 by the following police officers:-

• ***DC Philip Dyce (PS1910058)***; and

• ***DC Lewis Ingram (PS1938083)***  
v. For the period 1 January 2020 to present, please confirm how many stop and searches under s.23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 were carried out by each of the two officers referred to above and also in respect of each of those officers, please confirm how many of those searches resulted in the recovery/seizure of any property found under the said statutory provision.

Having considered this portion of your request, in terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to confirm or deny whether the information sought exists or is held by Police Scotland in terms of section 18 of the Act.

Section 18 applies where the following two conditions are met:

- It would be contrary to the public interest to reveal whether the information is held

- If the information was held, it would be exempt from disclosure in terms of one or more of the exemptions set out in sections 28 to 35, 38, 39(1) or 41 of the Act.

In this instance, if the information was held, sections 39 (1) of the Act would apply as to disclose whether or not information was held would confirm whether or not the circumstances referred to were in some way known to Police Scotland.

As you will be aware any disclosure under FOI legislation is a disclosure to the world at large and any information identifying the focus of policing activity would have the potential to increase the risk to the personal safety of police officers responding to incidents.

**This explanation should not be taken as indicative or conclusive evidence that the information you have requested does or does not exist.**

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.