

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0544
Date: 14 March 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) The number of police officers in Police Scotland as of 31 January 2022.

In response to your request, I can advise you that the number of full-time equivalent police officers in Scotland is published on a quarterly basis by the Scottish Government.

As such, 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 that you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at Section 27(1) of the Act:

“Information is exempt information if it is intended for future publication within the next twelve weeks”.

I have considered the public interest factors in this respect.

The police officer figures are sourced from Police Scotland’s quarterly reports and this data provides an accurate and reliable snapshot of police strength at the end of each quarter. There is no evidence to support any argument to circumvent this arrangement as it is widely accepted the quality and reliability of the data is good and made available to the public on a regular basis.

To assist, the information you are seeking will be available on the Police Scotland website, via the following link: [Police Scotland Officer Numbers - Police Scotland](#)

2) The number of probationary officers that started work for Police Scotland in the months of October 2021, November 2021 and December 2021.

For the months requested there has been one intake of 120 probationary constables in November 2021.

If you require further assistance or 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.pnn.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.