

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0278  
Date: 22 February 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. In each of the last 10 years, how many seizures of the drug Etizolam have taken place during intelligence-led police operations?**
- 2. In each of the last 10 years, what was the quantity of Etizolam seized during intelligence-led police operations? Please detail this in terms of quantity (weight or number of tablets) as well as street value.**
- 3. In each of the last 10 years, how many 'pill presses' used in the production of illicit tablets have been seized by officers during intelligence-led operations?**

Having considered your request in terms of the Act, 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, Misuse of Drugs offences are not categorised by drug type. Therefore the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to manually examine each and every relevant crime report to establish whether Etizolam/printing presses were recorded as a production in each case. You should also note that for the most recent periods, it will be likely that forensic testing will be ongoing.

To illustrate for the financial year, 2020/21, there are 30,344 recorded offences of Possession of Drugs and 4,842 for Drugs Supply and Production. As such given the volume of crimes this is an exercise which would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

You can access our publish crime statistics via the following link: [How we are performing - Police Scotland](#)

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To be of assistance however, an annual report on this subject is published by the Scottish Government with the most recent report for 2019/20: [www.gov.scot/collections/drug-seizures-and-offender-characteristics/](http://www.gov.scot/collections/drug-seizures-and-offender-characteristics/)

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee on [foidundee@scotland.police.uk](mailto:foidundee@scotland.police.uk) quoting the reference number given.

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](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalrnarnock, 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](mailto: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.

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