| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1444  Responded to: 20 June 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I would like to request the following information:

## Any information regarding an organised Honour Guard/Colour Guard/Ceremonial Unit within your force.

There is no official Honour Guard/Colour Guard/Ceremonial Unit within Police Scotland.

## Information regarding the training and instruction of Student Police Officers/Special Constables in foot drill as part of current initial Police Officer and Special Constable training?

Probationary Police officers receive:

* 13 week training course
* 10 week Drill programme
* 18 x 45 min periods of Drill training
* 1x 45 min period Drill competition
* 2 x 45 min Parade rehearsal
* 60 min Parade on final day of course

Drill content is a police version of content drawn from the Army Drill Manual (1990) and delivered by TDO (Physical Education/ Officer Safety) Police Staff who are trained to deliver the Drill programme as part of their role profile. The drill programme varies depending on the size of cohort recruited but follows a similar format each time. Aim = cohesion, teamworking, task attainment, communication, enhancement of abilities to react to instructions and supervisory commands.

Drill competition is the only team trophy on the initial course and the pass out parade affords a family day representation on completion of the course.

There is no drill programme for Special Constables

## 3. The scale of issue of uniform and equipment for new Police Officers and Special Constables for financial year 2024/2025.

## 4. The cost of each item of uniform and equipment issued to new Police Officers and Special Constables for financial year 2024/2025.

In regards to the two questions above, I must respond in terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 however, I am refusing to provide you with this information. 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 requested. The exemption that I consider to be applicable is:

**Section 33(1) (b) – Commercial Interests**

Such information will not be disclosed whilst remaining relevant, as it is considered to be commercially sensitive. Disclosure of this information would give a competitive advantage to companies in any future tender process.

Disclosure could reduce the number of companies tendering for the supply of uniforms and equipment, they being aware that Police Scotland will disclose commercially sensitive information. This is likely to negatively impact on the tendering process used by the service to ensure it purchases the most efficient and cost effective services in the future, and prejudice the commercial interests of Police Scotland.

This is a non-absolute exemption which requires the application of the Public Interest Test.

**Public Interest Test**

Police Scotland is a publicly funded organisation and therefore the Service has an obligation to obtain best value for money with particular services. Further, in order to do this, it is essential to maintain working relationships with companies that tender their services.

As such, Police Scotland will not disclose any information that would impact on the ability to do both. The public interest would not be served if it were no longer possible to engage companies in a tender offer if they believed that conducting business with Police Scotland would result in their confidential financial information being released.

However, in order to provide assistance, I can confirm that the overall number of items provisioned from stock for the financial year 2024/2025 was 129454 and the overall cost of said items was £1,929,221.92.

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.