| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-2535  Responded to: 15 August 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Please provide the following information held by Police Scotland for the period 00:00 on July 16th 2025 to 23:59 on August 11th 2025 relating to the Edinburgh city centre (defined as the New Town, Old Town, and West End):**

**1. The total number of recorded incidents in which police officers identified an individual as:**

* **sleeping rough,**
* **staying in temporary accommodation, or**
* **otherwise known to or engaged with homelessness services,**

**and where the officer(s) took any of the following actions:**

* **Relocated, moved on, dispersed, or otherwise asked the person to leave a location.**
* **Removed or supervised the removal of tents, bedding, sleeping bags, mattresses, or other personal effects from public spaces.**

**2. For each recorded incident in (1), please provide:**

* **Date and time.**
* **Location.**
* **Reason recorded for the action (e.g., “public safety,” “obstruction,” “street cleansing support,” “breach of the peace”).**
* **Whether the action was undertaken solely by Police Scotland or jointly with another agency (e.g., Edinburgh City Council, private security).**

**3. Copies of any operational orders, guidance, or instructions issued to officers in 2024 relating to: engagement with people sleeping rough in Edinburgh city centre, relocation/dispersal of such individuals, support provided to Edinburgh City Council or other agencies in removing personal property from public spaces.**

**For this request:**

**• “Information held” includes information recorded by Police Scotland in incident logs, officer notebooks, operational briefings, and partnership/joint operation reports.**

**• “Public spaces” means any street, park, underpass, or other public realm area within the city centre.**

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

To explain, all incidents for the location & time period requested would need to be manually assessed for relevance - an exercise which would clearly far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

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.