

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2566
Date: 16th December 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.

Section 163 Act. It would be of great benefit if you could please answer the following questions below to support my research.

- **Since 2017, have you collected any data on the number of people stopped*, by ethnicity, in vehicle only searches?**
- **Please provide the number of people stopped*, by ethnicity, in vehicle only searches, each year since 2017.**
- **If this is not available, please provide total counts of people stopped*, by ethnicity, in vehicle only searches, for the entire period or any portion of this period for which data exist.**
- **Did or do these data form part of any pilot scheme? If so, please provide any concluding or interim reports published alongside the data.**

*** please indicate whether figures include drivers, passengers, or both**

Having considered your request in terms of the above Act, I must advise you that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland. As such, Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 has been applied.

Please note that details of 'stops' would only be recorded in Police Officer notebooks, and it is unlikely that the ethnicity of an individual stopped would be recorded.

Nonetheless, we would be unable to provide you with general statistics for the number of vehicles stopped as the only possible way to provide an accurate number would be to individually examine every single Police Officer's notebook for the time period requested. This is an exercise which would far exceed the £600 cost limit and Section 12(1) of the Act would apply.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management Dundee, 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

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foi@scotland.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.