

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2021-2833  
Date: 17 January 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 routes that officers from Police Scotland routinely patrol, broken down by local police division. Please provide this information for every financial year since 2013-14 including the number so far in 2021-22.**
- 2) If possible, the location of these routine patrols conducted by Police Scotland, broken down by local police division. Please provide this information for every financial year since 2013-14 including the number so far in 2021-22.**
- 3) Any estimation of the time taken to patrol these individual routes. Please provide this information for every financial year since 2013-14 including the number so far in 2021-22.**
- 4) The number of times these routes have been patrolled by officers from Police Scotland, broken down by local police division. Please provide this information for every financial year since 2013-14 including the number so far in 2021-22. Please provide this information regardless of whether or not the location or time of these patrols have been provided. If it is not possible to provide the locations of these patrols, simply specify the number of times the routes have been patrolled in total.**

Local policing is at the heart of Police Scotland and the creation of a single policing service has allowed us to create a demand-led policing service that protects and supports local policing for our communities.

It also provides equal access to specialist resources, whether that is specialist police officers or equipment to support local policing, no matter where or when the demand.

Under a single policing service we now allocate and operate our police officer posts over three tiers - local, regional and national.

This ensures we have a core complement of officers who are always dedicated locally to community and response policing, and can then additionally draw on specialist expertise and resources to support local policing wherever and whenever they are needed.

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It means we have the right people in the right place at the right time to keep people safe and meet the needs of our communities.

Having considered your questions in terms of the Act, I'm afraid that section 17 of the Act would apply and the specific information requested is not held by Police Scotland.

By way of explanation, police officer deployment is dynamic and will plans will change regularly as a result of intelligence and/ or operational need.

Officers can be diverted from what might be described as a routine patrol in order to respond to an ongoing incident etc.

Similarly patrols may become 'routine' over a period of days/ weeks as a result of a particular incident or particular community concerns etc but then resources are deployed elsewhere as the situation changes.

We do not record what part of an officer's shift is spent on patrol as opposed to dealing with particular incidents etc.

Officers will be deployed in real time according to operation need.

Similarly, there is no list etc of every street in Scotland which has had a police officer patrol presence going back over a period of more than 8 years.

It is further acknowledged that if detailed information regarding routine deployments - particularly more recent ones - was available, such information would be of intelligence value to criminals and those seeking to divert police resources and incident response to their advantage.

Taking all of the above into account, I'm afraid we see no means by which a meaningful response to your request can be provided.

You may be interested in information regarding the divisional distribution of police resources - available online:

[www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/police-scotland/police-scotland-officer-numbers/](http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/police-scotland/police-scotland-officer-numbers/)

You may also be interested in our Annual Policing Plan - also available online:

[www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/njykirkg/annual-police-plan-21-22.pdf](http://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/njykirkg/annual-police-plan-21-22.pdf)

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 [foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk) or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

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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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