| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1416  Responded to: 06 June 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**My FOI is in relation to cross border warrants signed by an English Magistrate. As I understand it, current thinking is that search warrants to recover bank statements by Police for banks with offices in England (including Scottish banks like RBS) require to be signed ink whereas since 2020, the vast majority of search warrants are now signed digitally. I understand that Scots law (1881 Act) is not up to date with this electronic signature in respect of cross border warrants, despite the willingness of the English authorities to sign by digital means. I doubt when the emergency provisions of the Coronavirus legislation were enacted, that the Lord President intended for cross border to be missed in this way. As a result, Police officers require to travel to England by air, train and car to obtain an ink signature from an English judge.**

**Please could you confirm :**

**• The number of such journeys made by Police since 1 May 2020;**

**• The numbers of police man hours involved in such journeys since 1 May 2020;**

**• the annual costs of Police travel (whether recorded by train, flight or car expenses) from 1 May 2020 – 30 April 2024, broken down by year if possible, to obtain the wet signature of an English Magistrate? Including overnight accommodation if that occurs for travel for example, to London.**

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.

By way of explanation, this information requested is not centrally held. To obtain this information, we would be required to contact all 13 divisions, each of which have their own subdivisions. Unfortunately, the research required to carry out your request is clearly extensive.

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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) 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.