| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-2644Responded to: 30th October 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1. Does your Digital Forensics department have the ability to analyse and process evidence from Drones?

## 2. If not, is this work sent to a 3rd Party?

Information regarding Police Scotland’s Cybercrime Investigations and Digital Forensics Departments can be found on our website via the following link:-

[Cybercrime Investigations and Digital Forensics – Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/specialist-crime-division/cybercrime-investigations-and-digital-forensics/)

Police Scotland’s Digital Forensic Analysts are able to examine drones, following consideration and authorisation of each request. The Digital Forensics do not use data from drones but do have the capability to extract data from drones if the request is proportionate, justified and necessary to an investigation.

## 3. Can you give any example of types of illegal activity that drones have been seized / analysed for evidence within your Police service?

In our previous FOI Response [23-1896](https://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/disclosure-log-2023/september/23-1896-digital-forensics-drone-technology-tools/), it was stated that three drones have been authorised for examination by Digital Forensic Analysts in 2023.

In response to this follow up question, I can advise you that these examinations have been authorised for investigations related to Serious & Organised Crime and also for Missing Persons.

## 4. In 2022, how many reports did you have of incidents involving drones?

I can advise you that from the 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022, there were 2,212 Drone/ UAS/ UAV incidents recorded on Police Scotland’s incident recording system STORM.

The table below provides a breakdown of these incidents by month.

| **Jan** | **Feb** | **Mar** | **Apr** | **May** | **Jun** | **Jul** | **Aug** | **Sep** | **Oct** | **Nov** | **Dec** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 142 | 128 | 251 | 199 | 204 | 219 | 197 | 258 | 218 | 143 | 163 | 90 |

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 24th February 2023.

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 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 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.