| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 24-0573Responded to: xx March 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I am looking for all legal fees (amounts - Totals ) and any other fees (amounts - Totals) paid to law  firms, solicitors, advocates, QCs & KCs, arbitration services, and arbitrators and legal representatives (identify all who were paid - firm, name, identity, role) by Police  Scotland in relation to the sale of the estates, valuation, and conveyancing, disputes and home reports since January 2021 to the date of this FOI request?**

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

To explain, there is no methodology which would enable us to automatically retrieve the value of fees and other sums paid to external legal agents for conveyancing services. To determine if, when and to whom funds have been paid for the provision of legal services, it would be necessary to manually review all files either ongoing from or created after the relevant date.

An initial exercise check of all conveyancing/ ongoing conveyancing files between January 2021 and the end of 2023, confirms there are 378 document sets. This does not include files created between January and March 2024.

Accordingly, the only methodology we could utilise for your request at this time is a manual check of every single file and correspondence set.

To clarify, assuming a very conservative estimate that it would only take 10 minutes to review each file to determine whether legal fees, or otherwise costs for valuations and home reports have been paid, the costs of collating this information up to the end of 2023 are estimated to be at least:

10 mins x (378) = 3780 minutes (63 hours) equating to 63 hours x £15 per hour = £945.

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.