

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1953  
Date: 07 October 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.

### Part A)

**For the years 2022, 2021, 2020 and 2019, please could you provide the figures for: The total number of incidents that police were called out to.**

Please be advised that incident statistics are publicly available.

As such, in terms of section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought. Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

- (a) states that it holds the information,
- (b) states that it is claiming an exemption,
- (c) specifies the exemption in question and
- (d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at Section 25(1) of the Act - information otherwise accessible:

*“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under Section 1(1) is exempt information”*

The information you are seeking is available on the Police Scotland website, via the following link: [How we are performing - Police Scotland](#) - included in the published quarterly statistics.

Please be advised that these figures may contain incidents that were dealt with over the telephone. To research whether police officers attended in relation to an incident would require case by case examination as such as per below Section 12(1) of the act would apply.

**The total number of incidents that police were called out to, where they attended as a single unit or 'single crewed.'**

Having considered this question in terms of the Act, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

As such, and in terms of section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

By way of explanation, the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to manually examine each and every incident to establish whether a single crew attended. There are no markers which would allow the extraction of this information and given the volume of incidents, this is an exercise which would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

**Part B)**

**- What is your force's policy on single crewing?**

**- Has this policy changed since 2019?**

I can advise you that there is no specific policy on single crewing. As such, in terms of section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

**- Is single crewing the default in your force?**

Police Scotland routinely plans for double crewing for both Corroboration (in Scotland) and Security Threat Level Guidance. Decisions in respect of officer deployments are operational, and as such are made by supervisors on shift.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee at [foidundee@scotland.police.uk](mailto:foidundee@scotland.police.uk) 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.police.uk](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarock, 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](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

**OFFICIAL**

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.

**OFFICIAL**