| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-0133Responded to: xx February 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1. Please detail on how many occasions in each of the calendar years 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 has the Kessock Bridge been closed due to an incident with police involvement. Please also detail the length of each closure and the reason for closure.

In response to this question, 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, STORM Unity is the system used by Police Scotland for the management of police incidents and resources and is the source of the data provided in this response. It is worth noting that STORM is primarily a command & control system and has limited value as a statistical tool.

On that basis an initial check of STORM Unity indicates that in 2022 alone there were 347 incidents logged at this location and each record would have to be read to see whether the road had been closed and if the incident details matched the criteria of your request. Even if it only took five minutes to manually check each entry, collating this data would far exceed the £600 cost limitations of the Act.

## **2. Please indicate the number and purpose of meetings that have taken place between Police Scotland and other agencies and organisations to examine measures that might be** **taken to reduce the number of 'persons of concern' incidents on the Kessock Bridge.**

There have been four meetings in total so far, with a fifth scheduled later this month (Feb 2023). These have all been multi agency meetings in relation to the bridge, looking at services / agencies who can provide assistance to help reduce the number of incidents on the bridge and provide support to those involved.

## 3. And what, if anything, Police Scotland has proposed as possible measures to improve bridge safety and protect the public from injury and disruption.

In terms of Section 16 of the Act, I am refusing to provide you with the information relating to any potential measures as they are in the early planning stages. I can confirm that the information sought is held by Police Scotland and the exemption I consider to be applicable are: Section 30(b) - Prejudice to the Effective Conduct of Public Affairs

Information is exempt if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, inhibit substantially the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation.

The exemptions in Section 30(b) focus on the effect that disclosure of information would have (or would be likely to have) on the free and frank provision of advice or the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation.

As the requested information is in draft form and consultation with partner agencies is still in progress, it is likely that some references contain opinion and will be subject to change. Releasing this information into the public domain at this time is likely to inhibit the manner in which those issues are debated, effectively undermining the ability to ensure that there is sufficient opportunity to ensure all potential concerns and viewpoints are accurately identified and addressed.

This is a non-absolute exemption which requires the application of the Public Interest Test below:

It is accepted that there is a public interest in the disclosure of the information on the basis that it could lead to greater transparency and public debate.

That said it can be argued that the flow of information to the Service would be harmed by release of such information. If individuals were unwilling to contribute to such deliberations or put forward proposals in the future fearing their initial views were publicly attributable, or in case any non-factual information was disclosed prior to matters being finalised, the proper purpose of such deliberation and any efforts to achieve honest opinions, would be hindered.

On that basis, the public interest in disclosing the information is outweighed by that in maintaining the exemption.

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.