| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-0731Responded to: 14th April 2023 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**1. The total number of use of force incidents recorded by Safer Schools Police Officers (or personnel bearing other titles that may cover police staff who spend some of their time on a school site) in 2022.**

**Please also provide this number broken down by:**

**a. The type of force used**

**b. Age (11-15, 16-18) of the child**

**c. Gender of the child**

**d. Ethnicity of the child**

**e. The number of incidents that resulted in children sustaining injuries**

Having considered your request in terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am unable to provide a response, 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, Police Scotland have no operational or statistical requirement to record this information by Police Officer post on our SCoPE database. Whilst some divisions operate ‘Schools’ posts, many others do not; delegating that responsibility to School Liaison Officers (not a SCoPE post name), Community Beat Officers or Community Policing Teams.

Furthermore, we do not capture age other than noting under 18, or 18+.

Therefore, the only way to provide you with this information in an accurate and consistent manner would be to individually examine each recorded instance of force being used within each age range to locate any relevant to your request, which would clearly exceed the cost limitations of the Act.

To assist, Use of Force Data is published on the Police Scotland website;

[Use of Force - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/use-of-force/)

**2. The total number of complaints the force has received relating to Safer Schools Police Officers (or personnel bearing other titles that may cover police staff who spend some of their time on a school site) in 2022.**

Having considered your request in terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to confirm or deny whether the information sought exists or is held by Police Scotland in terms of section 18 of the Act.

Section 18 applies where the following two conditions are met:

* It would be contrary to the public interest to reveal whether the information is held

Whilst we accept that you may have a particular personal interest in being informed as to whether or not the information sought is held, the overwhelming public interest lies in protecting individuals’ right to privacy and the expectation of confidence that the public have in Police Scotland as regards their information.

* Ifthe information was held, it would be exempt from disclosure in terms of one or more of the exemptions set out in sections 28 to 35, 38, 39(1) or 41 of the Act

In this instance, sections 38(1)(b) and 38(1)(2A) of the Act apply insofar as you have requested third party personal data which is exempt from disclosure where it is assessed that disclosure would contravene the data protection principles as defined in the Act.

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.