| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-2703  Responded to: xx November 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

1. Confirmation that Police Scotland has a measurement that deems whether a shift is appropriately staffed or in under-staffed.

I can advise that certain functions within Police Scotland have a staffing level based on incident demand. In the main, this would be response policing groups, however some elements of community policing also use this methodology. Other staffing levels are dependent on the role of the department and are independently managed.

1. The number of shifts that were recorded as understaffed in 2024/25 so far (and if possible provide a breakdown by shift type e.g patrol, control room etc).

If possible, please also provide the total number of under-staffed shifts as percentage of the overall amount of shifts in the year.

1. The number of shifts that were recorded as under-staffed in the previous 5 years (2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2022/24).    
   Again please if possible provide a breakdown by shift type.

If possible, please also provide the total number of under-staffed shifts as percentage of the overall amount of shifts in the year.

In response to questions 2 and 3, unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

By way of explanation, to determine if a shift did not meet the operational base level (OBL) a manual search of each shift for the full time period would need to be undertaken. Additionally, there is no way to check whether a portion of a shift was under OBL for example 30 minutes or if a complete cycle of shifts were under OBL without a manual search.

1. If there is another category of shift status such as ‘dangerously under-staffed’ then please provide the same information I’ve asked for in requests 2 and 3.

Police Scotland cannot quantify the term “dangerously under-staffed” as such the information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

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](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) 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](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) 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.