

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2015-1176



Sir Stephen House QPM
Chief Constable

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.

Please could you provide the following information on marches and parades across Scotland for the year 2014-15?

Number of marches/parades

The information requested is not held in an easily retrievable format that would allow the number of marches/parades to be extracted. Unfortunately the only way to calculate this number would be to manually read through each operation and event held by Police Scotland for 2014/15. Given the number of operations and events recorded in 2014/15 it would be a considerable task to undertake this exercise and the cost of locating and retrieving the information would exceed the cost limits set within the Fees Regulations of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. 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.

In accordance with Section 12(1) of this Act this letter represents a Refusal notice for this part of the request, Excessive Cost of Compliance.

Total policing hours used

The information requested is not held in an easily retrievable format that would allow the policing hours to be extracted. Unfortunately the only way to calculate policing hours required in your request would be to manually read through each operation order and calculate the number of hours each officer was deployed. Given the number of operational orders recorded in 2014/15 it would be a considerable task to undertake this exercise and the cost of locating and retrieving the information would exceed the cost limits set within the Fees Regulations of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. 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.

In accordance with Section 12(1) of this Act this letter represents a Refusal notice for this part of the request, Excessive Cost of Compliance.

Total policing costs

Where a group have been given permission to march by a local authority this is a statutory event in which the participants are exercising their constitutional rights and the policing of this is a core policing duty for which no charges are attributable. Consequently policing costs are not calculated.

In terms of Section 17(1) of the Act this is a formal notice that the information is not held by Police Scotland.

With each of the figures above broken down into the following categories:

**Orange
Republican
Protest
Political
Community**

A march/parade can take place for a number of reasons and the organisers and participants may have differing reasons as to why it is taking place. They may well dispute any category given to a march/parade. Consequently marches/parades are not given a category.

In terms of Section 17(1) of the Act this is a formal notice that the information is not held by Police Scotland.

Should you require any further assistance concerning this matter please contact me directly on 01259 728227 quoting the reference number given.

If you are not satisfied with the way in which your request has been dealt with, you are entitled in the first instance, and within 40 working days of receiving this response, to request a review of the decision. Should you wish to do so, contact details are; FOI Central Processing Unit, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH - foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. Contact details are; Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS - enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

Should you wish to appeal against the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

Yours sincerely,

Stuart Macfarlane
Information Management