

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2015-1183



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.

I have been approached by a constituent with regard to Special Constables within the SSPCA and the RSPB. I have been informed that the employment history of Special Constables is a matter for Police Scotland. I would be very grateful if you could furnish me with information as to the amount of Special Constables with the SSPCA or RSPB?

The retention of employment details of all special constables under legacy arrangements involved the use of different ICT systems and much of the detail may have been held on separate databases. Whilst robust statistical analysis can be made of the data held on each of our systems, they are not, at present, designed to enable the retrieval of the highly specific information as per your request.

I have considered your request and am afraid that I am unable to provide a response at this time, 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.

To be of further assistance I can update you that work is currently underway to review and update all the local data held in relation to Special Constables. As the responsibility for providing updates on employment details rests with the individual officer, I have been advised by the National Co-ordinator for the Special Constabulary that this exercise involves contacting many of the special constables personally to ascertain the up to date information. I anticipate that in the near future we may be able to provide such detail in a cost effective way.

Should you require any further assistance concerning this matter please contact me directly on 01463 720555 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,

Donna Quick
Information Management

