

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2015-1180



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 would like to make a Freedom of Information request regarding Police Scotland's radio adverts advising that every 2 minutes a driver in Scotland is stopped and tested as to whether they are "Drink Driving".

By my calculations:

60 minutes in an hour. 24 hours in a day. 365 days in a year. So:

60 times 24 = 1440 (1440 minutes in a day.)

1440 times 365 = 525600 (525600 minutes in a year.)

This means that 262800 drivers are stopped in Scotland each year and tested for "Drink Driving".

Please confirm that 262800 people were stopped in Scotland in the last year for this reason.

I can confirm that last year, Road Policing Officers alone stopped and checked 292,591 vehicles for a range of incidents, offences, vehicle inspections and the routine checking of driver and vehicle documentation. If the driver has committed an offence or is suspected to have been drinking, they may be subjected to a breath test. Road Policing makes up less than four percent of the force strength and therefore the number of vehicles stopped by Police Scotland officers, as a whole, would be significantly higher.

Drink or drug driving remains a key element in many serious and fatal collisions and officers will take every opportunity to make full use of their powers in an effort to detect and deter motorists from driving while under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

Since Scotland has a population of approximately 6 Million people this means that approximately 3% of Scotland's population were stopped and tested for this reason in the last year. That is 1 in every 33 people in Scotland.

How many people were charged with the offense of "Drink Driving" in Scotland in the last year?

Please find **Table 1** below which details the number of detected drink driving related road traffic offences in the last year (from 12/06/2014 to 11/06/2015 inclusive).

Table 1

Offence type description	Number Of Crimes
Driving motor vehicle while unfit through drink or drugs	384
In charge of motor vehicle while unfit through drink or drugs	53
Driving motor vehicle with blood alcohol content above prescribed limit	2929
In charge of motor vehicle while blood alcohol content above limit	361
Failure to provide breath specimen at the roadside	261
Failure to provide breath, blood or urine specimen at police station	708
Total	4696

Is the number of people charged with said offence a fair reflection on Police Scotland's "Stop a driver every 2 minutes" policy?

In terms of Section 8 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, information which requires opinion in essence is not a valid request; it would be subjective on my part to respond in respect of this element of your request.

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,

Alexa Urquhart
Information Management