

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2015-1175



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 an FOI request for the following information to be provided per Area Command.

- **Since 1 April 2015 how many incidents were reported to the police where a victim, suspect/accused or complainer was under the influence of drugs?**
- **Since 1 April 2015 how many incidents were reported to the police where a victim, suspect/accused or complainer was under the influence of alcohol?**
- **Can you please identify which of the above incidents resulted in a crime report being raised.**

The above statistics will be used in a formal paper being submitted to Police Scotland in a proposal of our organisation supporting the Force with these incidents.

I understand this will be disappointing but having considered your request in terms of the above Act, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, 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, I would advise that whilst Police Scotland is moving towards the implementation of one system across the country, it currently remains the case that some of the fourteen Police Scotland Divisions continue to use different recording systems in relation to the recording of both incidents and crimes. Whilst there are of course significant high-level similarities between the systems used across the country to allow for, for example, the recording of crimes and associated detection rates, the differences when it comes to researching far more specific information are such that some information simply cannot be gathered.

To explain further, the systems currently utilised for the purposes of crime and incident recording, do not provide a method whereby we are able to search accurately for incidents where alcohol or drugs were perceived, by the reporting officer, to be a factor. The only way to ascertain this information would be to manually interrogate every incident record and crime report during the time period requested. Therefore, the information is not easily retrievable and identifying any such files would undoubtedly greatly exceed the cost limit set out in the regulation.

Crime statistics, of varying degrees of complexity, are frequently requested in terms of Freedom of Information legislation and, as with all information released into the public domain, whether by Police Scotland, the Scottish Government, the Scottish Police Authority etc, a corporate responsibility exists to ensure that said information is both accurate and reliable.

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