

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2015-1178



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.

In your request, you asked:

**1. How many people are wanted by your force on outstanding arrest warrants? This includes (but is not exclusive to) suspects who have failed to turn up to court, and where an arrest warrant has been issued.**

**I would like the most recent figure for 2015. Please break down by the nature of the crime/crime code, if possible.**

**2. What is the longest period of time a suspect has been wanted by police on an outstanding arrest warrant? Please provide the nature of the offence.**

**3. I would also like the same figures requested in (1.) for the years 2013 and 2014. I.e: how many people were wanted by police on outstanding arrest warrants at the end of:**

- a) 2013**
- b) 2014**

**Part (1.) of this request is my priority. If parts (2.) and (3.) are not available or would exceed cost limit, please do not delay sending the information in part (1.).**

As you will be aware the eight former Scottish Forces merged on 1 April 2013 to form Police Scotland. The Service operates a number of crime recording systems, and as a result the information for your request cannot, as yet, be retrieved from one centralised system.

Further to the above, having checked with the divisions, I am afraid that I am unable to answer your questions in full. I can provide overall totals for the number of warrants in 2015 only, but previous years and a breakdown of the offences these warrants relate to cannot be provided within the cost limits set out under the Fees Regulations. This is due, in part, to the differing nature of the individual systems involved, which would require further systems to be interrogated and new records to be created (which is not required under Freedom of Information legislation) in order to provide you with a response. As such, I must respond to your request for a breakdown of offence data under section 12(1) of FOISA: excessive cost of compliance.

The information I can provide is as follows:

Division	2015 Outstanding Warrants	Longest Warrant	Longest Warrant Offence
Forth Valley	221	14/03/2007	BOP, Vandalism
Highlands and Islands	739	1998	Fraud
Dumfries and Galloway	347	S12 applies	S12 applies
Fife	324	10/05/2011	Fraud
Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and Moray	225	1978	Murder
Edinburgh, Lothians and Scottish Borders	1451	2007	Breach of Bail offences
Tayside	961	11/03/2008	Theft by Shoplifting
Glasgow Divisions*	640	7943 days	Murder

*\*Greater Glasgow, Ayrshire, Lanarkshire, Argyll and West Dunbartonshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Divisions*

Please note the following caveats:

Your questions can only be answered by the divisional criminal justice units, and as such the figures have been retrieved on different days, and cannot be added together to form one Police Scotland response.

Please note that some figures will include multiple warrants for the same offender.

Should you require any further assistance concerning this matter please contact me directly on 0131 311 3901 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](mailto: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](mailto: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,

Gabriella Trybalska  
Information Management