

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2015-1159



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.

Under the Freedom of Information Scotland Act I request the number of detected crimes in Scotland where the suspect was aged a) 16 and b) 17 in each of the last three years.

Could the detected crimes be broken down into categories, assault, possession of a weapon etc?

I have considered your request and am afraid that I am unable to provide a response, 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 explain, Police Scotland operates a number of crime recording systems. 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 specific information as per your request. The only way to provide you with this information in an accurate and consistent manner would be to individually examine each crime report created for the time period requested. For N Division, in 2014 alone this would entail examining over 25,000 such reports. 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. However, the differences when it comes to researching far more specific information, such as that which relates to the details of an accused persons associated with crimes means that some information cannot be gathered by the central Analysis and Performance Unit of Police Scotland and therefore that independent research would have to take place within each of the 14 Divisions of Police Scotland in an attempt to identify the relevant information.

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