

06/03/2015

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2015-0214



Sir Stephen House QPM  
Chief Constable

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**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002**  
**SUBJECT: ARMED POLICE DEPLOYMENT**

I refer to your email dated 29/01/2015 regarding the above which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

**QUESTION**

Please provide a breakdown, by type (i.e. speeding, breach of the peace, etc), of the approx 30,000 interactions with the public by armed response officers dealing with routine (non armed, non threat-to-life) incidents between April 1, 2013, and March 31, 2014, then between April 1 2014 and the date that the policy of armed police being dispatched directly to routine incidents ended.

Please also provide similar number breakdown for interactions since the date when the policy ended.

For info, the 30,000 figure comes from an interview today with ACC Bernie Higgins and members of the media. He said that there was a breakdown by type held by Police Scotland.

## **RESPONSE**

Having considered your request in terms of the above Act, I regret to advise 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.

To try and explain, an officer will perform numerous policing tasks throughout a normal working day and these will almost always include contact with members of the public. The definition of 'interactions' is difficult to interpret and as we cannot measure this for statistical recording I am unable to provide you with the level of breakdown you request. Further to this the differing nature of our current systems would mean that the only way to provide you with this information in an accurate and consistent manner would be to individually examine each report created by Armed Policing since April 2013. I am sure you will appreciate that this would be an incredibly time consuming task.

I would advise that whilst Police Scotland is moving towards the implementation of one common Command and Control System across the country, it currently remains the case that some of the eight 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.

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.

However in order to be of further assistance I have included an extract of data which records details of Police Scotland's Armed Policing interactions with the public. It is very important to understand that this information is provided and compiled for management purposes only, and as such is not considered

statistically accurate for reporting purposes. As a result, any inference in respect of prevalence cannot be drawn from the data as produced below:

**ARMED POLICING STATISTICS  
2013-14**

<b>Road Policing 2013 – 2014 YTD Totals *</b>	
Dangerous Driving	44
Speeding	1733
Seat Belt	1837
Mobile Phone	3066
Drink/Drug Driving	141
<b>Total KPI'S</b>	<b>6821</b>
<b>Other Offences 2013 – 2014 YTD Totals</b>	
ASB FPN	2306
Stop Searches	13,745
Disqualified Drivers	25
Driving Licence Offences	257
Insurance Offences	938
Other RT Offences	5083
Careless Driving	173
Non RT Cases	694
<b>Total Other Offences</b>	<b>23,221</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,042</b>

- KPI's shown are not a direct comparison of the 2014-2015 KPIs due to having been recorded differently in 2013-2014 which included some 'other offences'

**ARMED POLICING STATISTICS  
1 APRIL TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2014**

<b>Road Policing 01/04/14 – 30/09/14 Totals</b>	
Dangerous Driving	24
Speeding	732
Seat Belt	660
Mobile Phone	1340
Drink/Drug Driving	67
<b>Total KPI'S</b>	<b>2823</b>
<b>Other Offences Totals</b>	
ASB FPN	1323
Stop Searches	3648
<b>All other Offences – (which includes but not limited to) Disqualified Drivers, Driving Licence Offences, Insurance Offences, Other Road Traffic Offences, Careless Driving, Non Road Traffic Cases</b>	<b>3118</b>
<b>Total Other Offences</b>	<b>8089</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,912</b>

**ARMED POLICING STATISTICS  
1 OCTOBER 2014 TO 1 FEBRUARY 2015**

Road Policing 01/10/14 – 01/02/15 Totals	
Dangerous Driving	2
Speeding	18
Seat Belt	103
Mobile Phone	254
Drink/Drug Driving	18
<b>Total KPI'S</b>	<b>395</b>

Other Offences Totals	
ASB FPN	207
Stop Searches	371
<b>All other Offences – (which includes but not limited to) Disqualified Drivers, Driving Licence Offences, Insurance Offences, Other Road Traffic Offences, Careless Driving, Non Road Traffic Cases</b>	659
<b>Total Other Offences</b>	<b>1237</b>

<b>Total</b>	<b>1632</b>
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I trust that the information available is of assistance and should you require any further assistance concerning this matter please contact me 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 letter to request a review of the decision made by the Service. Should you wish to do so, contact details are; Police Scotland, FOI Central Processing Unit, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH. (Or email [foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk)).

Once informed of the review decision, if you are still not satisfied, then you are entitled to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. The contact details are: Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS, telephone 01334 464610. 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

Andrene MacLeod  
Information Management  
Freedom of Information