

06/03/2015

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2015-0297



Sir Stephen House QPM
Chief Constable

Police Scotland,
FOI Central Processing Unit,
Clyde Gateway,
2 French Street,
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G40 4EH

foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

SUBJECT: Anabolic Steroids

I refer to your email dated 06/02/2015 regarding the above which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

QUESTION

1a) How many seizures of anabolic steroids have your force made between the 1st of January 2013 and the 31st of January 2015?

1b) Please could you provide a breakdown by month?

2a) Please could you provide the number of doses/quantity of anabolic steroids seized between the 1st of January 2013 and the 31st of January 2015

2b) Please could you provide a breakdown by month?

3a) Please could you provide the number of arrests between the 1st of January 2013 and the 31st of January 2015 relating to the supply of anabolic steroids?

3b) Please could you provide a breakdown by month?

RESPONSE

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.

To explain further, all information regarding reported crimes would be recorded on incident recording systems and each of Police Scotland's Divisions continue to use their 'legacy' systems for this purpose. These systems operate independently from each other and whilst robust statistical analysis can be made of the data held on each system, they are not designed to enable the retrieval of the highly specific information as per your request.

In order to provide accurate information in relation to 'seizures of anabolic steroids', we would be required to manually interrogate every relevant incident report which relates to drugs. As you will appreciate, this would result in a vast number of reports having to be checked.

As a result I must respond to your request in terms of Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act: Excessive Cost of Compliance

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).

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