

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2015-1639



Sir Stephen House QPM  
Chief Constable

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002 - INTERNAL REVIEW**

In accordance with section 20(1) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I understand that you have requested a review of the decision communicated to you on 16 September 2015 in respect of your original request for information, received 10 August 2015.

### **Original Request**

**Figures for both 1 April 2015 and 1 April 2013 in terms of (the number of);**

- **PC's serving in local policing teams across Aberdeen Division**
- **substantive Sergeants and inspectors fulfilling local policing team posts**
- **temporary sergeants and inspectors fulfilling local policing team posts**

### **Request for Review**

**I am writing to request an internal review of Police Scotland's handling of my FOI request... You have failed to provide me with the information requested in time and are long overdue.**

My role is to consider the response issued and determine whether or not your request was handled in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

I note that although a response was issued, which provided the information sought for 2015, no response was offered in relation to the 2013 data.

You raised this with the FOI team at Aberdeen who had handled your request and it is my understanding that this part of your request remains unanswered.

As such, in terms of section 21(4)(c) of the Act, as Police Scotland has failed to offer a response within 20 working days, I must conclude that your request has not been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Please accept our sincere apologies in this regard and a response to the part of your request seeking comparable data for 2013 has now been provided below.

First of all, I would advise you that information regarding Police Officer numbers is available on the Police Scotland website - accessible via the following link:

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/police-scotland/212598/>

This information, which goes back to 2013, is updated quarterly and the figures are broken down to Divisional level.

Unfortunately, however I am unable to provide detailed information regarding specific Police Officer roles in 2013.

To explain, whilst the roles and responsibilities of the legacy forces all came under the control and responsibility of Police Scotland on 1 April 2013, the organisation itself inherited a diverse set of structures and departments from the constituent forces.

From 1 April 2013, the policing service was delivered through 14 territorial and other specialist divisions however, the electronic systems used to record details of officers and staff still reflected the policing structures in place prior to their creation of Police Scotland.

In order to ensure the realignment of police officers and police staff into this national policing model, a single organisational structure was put in place for Police Scotland on 1 October 2013 and in August 2014, the various electronic personnel systems were harmonised into one.

Whilst data has been retrieved for this request relating to 'local policing teams' as per the 2015 recording category, this simply didn't exist prior to August 2014 and so no directly comparable data can be provided.

As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland

Should you require any further assistance concerning this matter please contact Information Management - Dundee on 01382 596657 quoting the reference number given.

If you remain dissatisfied following my review of this case, you then have six months in which you may appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner who can be contacted as follows:

Scottish Information Commissioner  
Kinburn Castle  
Doubledykes Road  
St Andrews  
Fife  
KY16 9DS

Telephone: 01334 464610  
Email: [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.