

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2015-1639

08 December 2015



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002 – INTERNAL REVIEW

In accordance with section 20(1) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, 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

Please provide figures for both 1 April 2015 and 1 April 2013 in terms of;

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

Request for Review

However, local policing teams were established in the legacy Grampian police Aberdeen Division on 1 April 2010, as a result of a divisional restructure. As such, directly comparable numbers should be available in this case.

I'd be obliged if you would check again. As I am confident that these figures are available on the legacy Grampian systems, I will accept a copy of the 1 April 2010 document outlining the staff moves and I can collect the rank specific numbers myself if required.

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.

In reviewing the response I have studied all documentation relevant to the request, including that which documents both the research carried out and the decision making process. I note that Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, information not held was previously applied to your request for the 2013 figures.

As you may be aware, the policing model used by Police Scotland differs from that used by the former Scottish police forces. Police Officers are now allocated and operated over three tiers; local, regional and national which allows a greater flexibility in regard to resourcing decisions. This approach and the departmental structure within each tier do not directly correlate with the model that would have been used within Grampian Police and this is where the difficulty arises when questions ask for comparative data.

I note that my colleague has previously explained that while the inception of Police Scotland on 1 April 2013 meant the policing service was delivered through 14 territorial

and other specialist divisions, 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.

Over the preceding months work was undertaken to realign police officers and police staff into this national policing model, but it wasn't until August 2014 that the various electronic personnel systems were harmonised into one, leading to the creation of one directly-comparable, reliable dataset.

As a result, whilst data could be compiled for 'local policing teams' in 2015, the system this information is held on was not in place in 2013 and I therefore concur that no directly comparable data is held.

Taking all of the above into account, I am satisfied that your request has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and in terms of section 21(4)(a) of the Act, I uphold the original response and agree that Section 17 of the Act was correctly applied.

Should you require any further assistance concerning this matter please contact Information Management – Edinburgh on 0131 311 3901 quoting the reference number given.

If you remain dissatisfied following the 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

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.

Information Management – Edinburgh
0131 311 3901