| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 24-2597Responded to: 05 November 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**1.How many arrests for drug offences have been made in Inverness between 01/01/2024 and 10/10/2024?**

**2.How many arrests for drug offences were made in Inverness between?**

**-01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023
-01/01/2022 and 31/12/2022
-01/01/2021 and 31/12/2021
-01/01/2020 and 31/12/2020**

**6.Between 01/01/2024 and 10/10/2024, in which street in Inverness have the most arrests been made for drug offences?**

**7.Between 01/01/2024 and 10/10/2024, how many arrests have been made in relation to the production of drugs in Inverness?**

The Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 removed the separate concepts of arrest and detention and replaced them with a power of arrest without warrant - where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting a person has committed, or is committing, an offence.

When a person is arrested, a statement of arrest should be read over as soon as reasonably practicable, and details recorded in the arresting officer’s notebook.

A person is ‘Not Officially Accused’ (a suspect) when arrested *and* *not* cautioned and charged. They are ‘Officially Accused’ once arrested *and* cautioned and charged.

If conveyed to a police station, the arrested person will have their details recorded in our National Custody System.

There are situations however whereby a person must be released from police custody prior to their arrival at a police station - effectively they are ‘de-arrested’ - where the reasonable grounds for suspicion no longer exist. In those circumstances, the details of an arrested person are not held electronically.

As a result, we are unfortunately unable to collate comprehensivearrest data, as case by case assessment of all officer notebooks would be required - in addition to the partialarrest data held in the National Custody System.

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request and I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

For the reasons outlined above, Police Scotland do not collate data on arrests.

Instead, data is compiled and published based on recorded and detected crimes - [Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/).

Detected crimes are those where an accused has been identified and there exists a sufficiency of evidence under Scots Law to justify consideration of criminal proceedings.

To be of assistance, please see the table below for detected drug related offences in Inverness, broken down by Scottish Government Justice Directorate (SGJD) Description from 1st January 2020 to 10th October 2024. Please also note caveat below table.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SGJD description** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** |
| Production, manufacture or cultivation of drugs | 7 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Supply of Drugs incl. possess with intent | 95 | 85 | 77 | 89 | 72 |
| Possession of drugs | 671 | 543 | 543 | 538 | 418 |
| Bringing drugs into prison | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Psychoactive Substance: Production, supply or possession in custody | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Drugs Offences | 7 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 5 |
| **Total** | **781** | **638** | **628** | **636** | **496** |

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information.
Data was extracted from Police Scotland systems and are correct as at 30/10/2024
The data was extracted using the crime's detected date, area command code 14 (Inverness) and by using SGJD codes:

504401 - Illegal importation of Drugs, 504402 - Production, manufacture or cultivation of Drugs, 504403 - Supply, possession, 504404 - Possession of Drugs, 504406 - Bringing Drugs into prison, 504407 - Psychoactive Substance - production, supply or possession in custody, 504408 - Psychoactive Substances - other offences, 504499 - Drugs - other offences

## 3.Between 01/01/2024 and 10/10/2024, what has been the most common drug-related offence in Inverness: possession, supply or production?

I can confirm the most common drug related offence in Inverness between 01/01/2024 and 10/10/2024 was crimes relating to possession.

## 4.Between 01/01/2024 and 10/10/2024, what was the most common controlled substance seized in Inverness, as estimated by the weight of the substance seized?5.Between 01/01/2024 and 10/10/2024, what was the largest quantity of drugs seized in Inverness (at a single drug bust), what substance was it and what was its street value?

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

To explain, we would need to review all crime reports to extract this information.

If you require any further assistance, please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by email or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by email or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.