| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 24-1806Responded to: 6th August 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I would like to find out how many applicants to join police Scotland as an officer fail the drug/substance misuse test during the application phase. Not serving police officers/staff but potential recruits only.

## This is the test whereby applicants provide two hair samples, A and B. The A sample is tested first, then if positive for a substance that is unacceptable, the B sample can be used in an appeal.

## I would like to know how many applications in the last 5 years have failed the A test and the grounds for its failure, for example, testing positive for cocaine.

Due to data retention policies the information sought for 2019 - 2021 is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

However, I can confirm that for the period January 2022 - August 2024, 48 applicants have failed the substance misuse test in the recruitment process.

Table 1 provides a breakdown of this number by the substance the applicant tested positive for.

Table 1:

| **Applicants** | **Substance** |
| --- | --- |
| 33 | Cocaine |
| 6 | Amphetamines |
| 3 | Amphetamines, Cocaine |
| 2 | Cannabis |
| 1 | Amphetamines, Opiates, Cocaine |
| 1 | Cocaine, amphetamines, methamphetamine |
| 1 | Cocaine, opiates |
| 1 | Amphetamines, Opiates |

## In addition to this, can I find out how many applicants appealed with the B sample, and of those, how many were successful?

1 applicant has appealed using a B sample however 0 applicants have been successful.

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.