| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-2548Responded to: 20th October 2023 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## May I make a freedom of information request for how many Police Officers and staff in Edinburgh have previous criminal convictions?

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 Act where section 12(1) (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

There are currently over 1,000 serving police officers and staff within E Division ([Police Scotland Officer Numbers - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/police-scotland-officer-numbers/)).

Notwithstanding the fact that any convictions gained early in their service could, conceivably have since weeded from the Scottish Criminal History System (CHS) in the interim (in accordance with [retention rules](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/himljwyi/recording-weeding-and-retention-of-info.pdf)), it would be necessary to check every officer against the CHS system to research your request.

Given the numbers involved, such an exercise would clearly far exceed the £600 limit in terms of resource.

You may be interested in a recent statement by Deputy Chief Constable Fiona Taylor QPM in relation to police officer vetting:

[Police Scotland statement on vetting checks of officers and staff - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/news/2023/january/police-scotland-statement-on-vetting-checks-of-officers-and-staff/)

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.