| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-0072  Responded to: 02 April 2025 |
| --- | --- |

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

## The number of officers disciplined in each of the last five years for using police computers to run searches on neighbours, family and the local area.

## The type of discipline used i.e number of dismissals, number of suspensions and number of warnings.

## Any other relevant information

The Professional Standards Department recording system does not have a marker to identify data protection allegations of the specific nature described in your request.

We have no operational need to identify and document relationships, as the offence is simply to access information without a legitimate Policing purpose.

We have therefore conducted a manual assessment of files, to identify those linked to an officer’s neighbour, family or their local area specifically.

Between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2024, 22 officers are recorded as having been subject to data protection allegations, where the search has been assessed as linked to the officer’s neighbour, family, or their local area.

2019/20 5  
2020/21 11  
2021/22 3  
2022/23 3  
2023/24 0

All officers were issued improvement action as a result.

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](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) 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](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) 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.