



Freedom of Information Response

Our reference: FOI 24-0508

Responded to: 14 March 2024

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

Police Scotland's protocol for armed officers responding to incidents involving dogs.

Police Scotland's protocol for how armed officers engage with dogs deemed dangerous.

Protocol for discharging a firearm at an out-of-control dog.

Please be advised that the above requested information is publicly available.

As such, in terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought. Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

- (a) states that it holds the information,
- (b) states that it is claiming an exemption,
- (c) specifies the exemption in question and
- (d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at Section 25(1) of the Act - information otherwise accessible:

"Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under Section 1(1) is exempt information".

All Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs) in the Police Scotland are trained to the standards set by the College of Policing and contained within the National Police Firearms Training Curriculum (NPFTC).

The 'Criteria for the deployment of AFOs' is contained within the Authorised Professional Practice (APP) document for Armed Policing which sets out guidance to Forces nationally in the UK in response to incidents where Armed Response may be appropriate.

Deployment of authorised firearms officers (AFOs) | College of Policing

The number of incidents armed officers have responded to reports of dangerous dogs over the last three years - please provide a number for 2021, 2022 and 2023-to date.

The requested information is provided below:

Year	No of Incidents
2021	No Data Available
2022	2
2023	2
2024	7

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, Dalnarnock, 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](#), 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](#) 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.