| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-0195  Responded to: 06 February 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I am writing to request information regarding the use of PAVA spray by Police Scotland during the policing of pro-Palestine protests between October 2023 and October 2024.

## Specifically:

## (1) Total number of times PAVA spray has been withdrawn by Police Scotland officers during the policing of pro-Palestine protests between October 2023 and October 2024.

## (2) Total number of times PAVA spray has been deployed by Police Scotland during the policing of pro-Palestine protests between October 2023 and October 2024.

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.

By way of explanation, our Operational Support Division planning team confirm that they have had no involvement in the operational response to any such events for the time period covered by your request.

That means that any pre-planned and/ or spontaneous pro-Palestine protests will have been managed by local policing divisions.

There is no centralised recording system for the deployment of PAVA spray. The required information is recorded on individual staff records as such, in terms of questions 1 and 2 of your request there is no way that any such information could be gathered or collated other than by performing a manual review of all staff records of each officer who was deployed to these protests over the 12-month period. As such, this is an exercise which would exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

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.