| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-0074Responded to: 03 February 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

1. **The number of negative warrants carried out by Police Scotland (where nothing was found) over the last five years or as far back as data goes.**
2. **Can you please break this down by the figures for each year.**

We must advise that the information you have requested is not held in a format that can be reported on, therefore,the information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act applies.

By way of explanation, the procedure for craving warrants differs from division to division and is not centrally recorded.

**3. Can you also please give me the total amount of compensation paid each year to members of the public as a result of these negative warrants.**

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.

Firstly, I must advise that “negative warrant” is not a term defined by Police Scotland. Warrants are only granted where a sheriff/ judge is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to suspect criminality. When a search occurs, there is often the possibility that nothing is found. This alone is not grounds for compensation.

I must also add that since 2020/21 there have been 358 settlement payments made in respect to Public Liability claims. These files are not broken down any further than their designation as a Public Liability file. To determine whether these relate to warrants, a manual search of each record would be required. 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 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](https://www.foi.scot/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.