| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1901  Responded to: 23 August 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**How many Recorded Police Warnings have been issued in relation to possession of a) heroin b) cocaine c) cannabis, between September 1, 2021 to April 1, 2022 and April 2022 - April 2023 and so far this financial year - ie from April 2023 to date**

**Please break down by financial year – so how many for heroin, cocaine and cannabis for Sept 2021-Apr 2022, Apr 2022-Apr 2023, and Apr 2023 onwards**

Having considered your request in terms of the Act, 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 Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

By way of explanation, the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to carry out an individual check of thousands of crime reports - we cannot search by drug type. This would be an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

There are measures in place to ensure that Recorded Police Warnings are only issued for suitable offences. Prior to the change in the Lord Advocate guidelines on the 28 September 2021, anyone found to be in possession of a Class A drug was not suitable for a Recorded Police Warning therefore it would not have been issued.

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.