| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-3237  Responded to: 18 January 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Q. Between the five year period of the 1st of January 2018 and the 1st of January 2022, how many Firearms Search Warrants were executed by Police Scotland?

Q. Of those Firearms Warrants carried out during that time period how many of which were executed by Armed Response Officers wearing Ballistic PPE?

Q. Of those Firearms Warrants during that period, what was the average time between the Warrant being craved/signed by a Sheriff to it being executed by Officers?

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 (the Act) 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 information, Search warrants are authorised to police officers under oath by a Procurator Fiscal or a Justice of the Peace and are usually issued in pressing/dynamic circumstances.

In relation to recording, there is no single system for managing the administrative function of search warrants and each Division manage this function within their own areas in a number of different ways.

In each of the 13 Police Divisions, each and every incident record would require to be reviewed, in order to ascertain the number of warrants granted during the time period requested and related to a firearm, as we do not routinely record the deployment type i.e. Firearms Warrant, Search Warrant, Drugs Warrant etc.

To complete this task would take in excess of the 40 hour and £600 cost limits prescribed by the Scottish Ministers in terms of the Act.

I would ask that you note that Police Scotland’s Armed Policing Unit have no involvement in obtaining search warrants.

Further and by way of information, Armed Response Officers do not deploy/attend all Firearm Warrants executions.  Prior to any such deployment, a suitably trained Firearms Commander is required to review the case details. Only after this will a decision be made around the proportionality and necessity for any Armed Response involvement.

If Armed Response Officers deploy, they always wear ballistic PPE regardless of whether it is a covert or overt operation.

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.