| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-0269  Responded to: 31 January 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Under The Freedom of Information Act 2000, could you please provide the following information:

## 1. In each of the last five calendar years (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023), how much did the force spend on purchasing information from data brokers such as Experian, Equifax, Acxiom and others? Please provide a full breakdown of spend with each provider in each calendar year

The table below shows Police Scotland’s total spend regarding data purchasing in pounds sterling (£) for the years 2019-2023, broken down by provider.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Provider | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
| Experian | 208,114 | 235,415 | 331,320 | 308,839 | 256,358 |
| Equifax | 77,179 | 80,804 | 75,284 | 40,009 | 52,418 |
| Acxiom | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Companies house | 1050 | 326 | 216 | 570 | 118 |
| Registers of Scotland | 24,011 | 19,283 | 14,898 | 16,857 | 22,670 |

## 2. For what purposes does the force purchase information from data brokers?

I can confirm that Police Scotland purchase information for the following reasons

* Investigations – Assessing data to support criminal investigations
* Security Checks – Background checks on individuals

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.