| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-2930Responded to: 4th December 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## How much money was paid to Police Informants in the following years:

## 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 (year to date)

The table below provides the rewards paid to CHIS for calendar years 2019 to 2022

| **Year** | **Paid**  |
| --- | --- |
| 2019  | £277,027.30 |
| 2020 | £264,607.24 |
| 2021 | £305,588.72 |
| 2022 | £288,850.80 |

In relation to the period from 1st January 2023 to date, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought and section 16 of the Act therefore requires Police Scotland to provide you with a notice which:

a) states that it holds the information,

b) states that it is claiming an exemption,

c) specifies the exemption in question and

d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information you have requested and the exemptions applicable are as follows:

• Section 35(1)(a)&(b) - Law Enforcement

• Section 39(1) - Health and Safety

• Section 34(1)(b) - Investigations

• Section 38(1)(b) - Personal information

Disclosure of data for any other period builds a picture of policing activity across short periods of time which would be invaluable to offenders.

Disclosure would present an increased risk to those operating as CHIS as it would lead to members of organised crime groups seeking to identify any CHIS who may be reporting

their activities. This increases the risk to individuals, whether there are CHIS reporting on that group or not. This is particularly relevant in regard to the partial-year data; providing this breakdown would allow spikes to be identified that could in turn be associated to a particular serious crime and compromise a CHIS operation. Further, where significant arrests and recoveries have been made from a CHIS-lead operation then it would be conceivable that Organised Crime Groups could effectively ascertain that it was CHIS information that lead to the police action, due to any significant spike in CHIS payments. From there they might assume, rightly or wrongly, that a particular individual was providing information to the police, putting this person at risk of harm.

Although I consider that public awareness would favour a part year disclosure as it would contribute to the public debate surrounding the application of these measures, we must ensure that the release of this level of detail is not inadvertently providing potentially harmful information and placing an individual at risk. This is a matter of principle which applies equally to any member of the public who could find themselves subject to this or other protective measures in a variety of circumstances.

You may wish to submit your request again in January 2024.

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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/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.