| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2652  Responded to: 9 November 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1. What is the Police Scotland's protest removal team and when is it used?

Police Scotland have Officers who are trained to respond to individual persons who are engaged in protest and using methods whereby they are locked-on to other persons or infrastructure. Should the situation result in the safe removal of persons engaged in a lock-on protest, then specially trained Officers are required to deploy. These specially trained Officers are trained as Protestor Removal Teams.

## 2. How many officers are involved in these teams, and how much training do they have to do?

A Protestor Removal Team consists of 7 Officers. Protestor Removal Team trained Officers must complete the following training: Initial Course (5 days), Refresher Course (2 x 2 days). Officers must complete all training to maintain the specialism and remain eligible for deployment.

## 3. How much does it cost to run the unit every year? Breakdown of these costs?

I can advise that Police Scotland does not hold information in the format requested. In terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that information is not held.

As you will be aware an individual’s right in terms of the legislation is to obtain information held by a public authority at the time a request is received and there is no obligation on them to create new information specifically for this request.

By way of information there is not a standalone Protestor Removal Team Unit. Officers who are trained in this specialism are based within Police Scotland’s Operational Support Unit and are trained in a number of specialist roles and will only deploy as Protestor Removal Teams when required to do so. Accordingly, costs are not collated to this level.

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.