| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2273  Responded to: 27 September 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Would you be able to disclose your policy on the counting of the number of participants on Political marches, walks and demonstrations? Yesterday, the political journalist Gina Davidson posted a comment on X (formerly Twitter) that Police Scotland do not give out such figures ( [https://twitter.com/ginadavidsonlbc/status/1698076312714240095?s=20](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftwitter.com%2Fginadavidsonlbc%2Fstatus%2F1698076312714240095%3Fs%3D20&data=05%7C01%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7Ceed31591a0b041cf99c108dbae0d15ff%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638295143599218169%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Mg3OdhOu0eJBdSPUSHRjlJFzvnN8zsXrYOWUCv4mv5g%3D&reserved=0) ), but there are people that have said she is incorrect in this, and that you in fact do provide numbers. I believe that she is telling the truth, as she was advised on that information by your media team.

In response, there is no operational requirement for Police Scotland to inform the public or media how many people attended any procession. This is a matter for the organisers of the procession or the local authority. As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

To be of assistance, we may ask the organiser for an estimate of the number of people they have with them, but in terms of a policy, no such document exists.

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.