| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0192  Responded to: xx February 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Can you supply me with figures on the number of physical attacks on Police Scotland officers within the last six months?

Having considered your request in terms of the Act, I would first of all advise that such requests have been treated in the past as cost prohibitive in their entirety. To explain, crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the Scottish Government Justice Department offence classifications and they are not thereafter subcategorised.

The first of the relevant offence classifications in Scotland is ‘Assault of an Emergency Worker’which includes the offence of assaulting a police officer as set out at section 90 of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012. The classification also includes offences under the Emergency Workers (Scotland) Act 2005, which covers other emergency service workers (NHS etc.) or a person who is assisting an emergency service worker. Similarly, when a member of police staff is assaulted in the course of assisting an officer in their duties (a custody staff member etc.), that is recorded under the same legislation, as are assaults against Special Constables. The classification also includes the legislation relevant to British Transport Police Officers.

The crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no facility whereby the occupation of the victim can be easily extracted and as such, each and every crime report would need to be individually examined to determine first of all whether the victim was a Police Scotland officer and, if so, the circumstances of the offence.

Given all of the above, you will appreciate that it would not be possible to provide the information requested within the £600 cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations and as such and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) would apply.

If the wider ranging dataset i.e. Assault of an Emergency Worker is of interest to you, the link below includes the most recent recorded data:

[How we are performing - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/)

To be of assistance I have gone on to consider your request for information in terms of personnel recording and can confirm that some Health & Safety data contained within Police Scotland’s HR system (SCOPE) has been collated for the date range from 1st July to 31st December 2022.

On that basis 2332 assaults were recorded across Scotland in that time period where this figure includes Police Officers, Probationers and Special Constables.

## I would be looking for a breakdown of these figures across Scotland, if you can provide that level of detail. For example, it would be good to get a figure for Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Ayrshire, etc. within the six month time frame.

The requested data is provided at a divisional level below:

Table 1: Personnel recorded police assaults - July to December 2022 incl.

North Division: Grampian (A), Tayside (D) & Northern (N)

| **North Division(s)** | **Q2 July – Sept 2023** | **Q3 Oct – Dec 2023** | **Total** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | 114 | 93 | **207** |
| D | 94 | 99 | **193** |
| N | 25 | 37 | **62** |
| **Total** | **233** | **229** | **462** |

Table 2: Personnel recorded police assaults - July to December 2022 incl.

East Division: Forth Valley(C), Edinburgh (E), Fife (P) & Lothian & Borders (J)

| **East Division(s)** | **Q2 July – Sept 2023** | **Q3 Oct – Dec 2023** | **Total** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| C | 68 | 102 | **170** |
| E | 108 | 120 | **228** |
| J | 75 | 74 | **149** |
| P | 57 | 51 | 108 |
| **Total** | **308** | **347** | **655** |

Table 3: Personnel recorded police assaults - July to December 2022 incl.

West Division: Greater Glasgow (G), Renfrewshire & Inverclyde (K), Argyll and West Dunbartonshire (L), Lanarkshire (Q), Ayrshire (U) & Dumfries and Galloway (V)

| **West Division(s)** | **Q2 July – Sept 2023** | **Q3 Oct – Dec 2023** | **Total** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| G | 308 | 211 | **519** |
| K | 36 | 37 | **73** |
| L | 64 | 40 | **104** |
| Q | 183 | 178 | **361** |
| U | 47 | 45 | **92** |
| V | 23 | 26 | **49** |
| **Total** | **661** | **537** | **1198** |

Table 4: Personnel recorded police assaults - July to December 2022 incl.

Specialist Divisions: \*CJSD denotes assaults that occurred within a custody centre\*

| **Specialist** | **Q2 July – Sept 2023** | **Q3 Oct – Dec 2023** | **Total** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| CJSD A | 2 | 0 | **2** |
| CJSD D | 2 | 0 | **2** |
| CJSD E | 1 | 0 | **1** |
| CJSD G | 2 | 1 | **3** |
| CJSD N | 0 | 1 | **1** |
| CJSD P | 1 | 0 | **1** |
| CJSD Q | 2 | 1 | **3** |
| CJSD U | 0 | 1 | **1** |
| CJSD V | 3 | 0 | **3** |
| **Total** | **13** | **4** | **17** |

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.