| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-3267  Responded to: xx January 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1. I am looking for any crime stats for Aberdeen city centre from 2022 and 2023 for use in a university final year project.

I must first of all advise you that crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the Scottish Government Justice Department (SGJD) offence classification codes.

On that basis, all recorded and detected crime statistics are publicly available.

As such, in terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought. Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, 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 that you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at Section 25(1) of the Act - information otherwise accessible:

*“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under Section 1(1) is exempt information”*

Recorded and detected crime statistics are publicly available on the Police Scotland website, broken down into Multi-Member Ward area, via the following links:

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

[Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/)

## 2. I was also wondering if you could explain what methodology is currently used to ‘rank’ crimes on how serious they are and how response is prioritised and how different units of police Scotland (e.g. Traffic police, MIT, CID) may prioritise these crimes?

I can first advise you that the national guidance published via the link below is designed to ensure that all police officers, staff and special constables are aware of the definition of a ‘Critical Incident’ that encompasses not only major incidents and serious crimes that may immediately be identified as ‘critical’, but also requires officers and staff to consider the impact of other crimes on victims, their families and the wider community in order that an appropriate response is provided and confidence in policing is maintained.

[Critical Incident Management National Guidance](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/vrjcos44/publication-scheme-critical-incident-management-ng-v1-00.doc)

Please note that some operational information from the document was exempted prior to publication. The information sought is held by Police Scotland, but I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the following exemptions apply:

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

Information that undermines the operational integrity of policing activity will clearly adversely affect public safety and have a negative impact on law enforcement.

Whilst accountability for public funds and better informing the public debate on a matter of significant concern may favour disclosure, ensuring the integrity of the police response to criminal activity and ultimately, keeping people safe from harm is paramount.

* Some minor information has also been removed under Section 38(1)(b) – Personal Data

Furthermore, to ensure a uniformity of approach, the Scottish Crime Recording Standard (SCRS) provides the methodology for the standard recording and counting of crimes and offences throughout the whole of Police Scotland.

Further information about the corresponding decision making and recording process is available via the following link:

[Scottish Crime Recording Standard (PDF](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/p0nfjj2c/scottish-crime-recording-standard-crime-recording-and-counting-rules-april-2021.pdf?view=Standard))

## 3. Any methodology used to currently foresee where and what crimes may take place

Our Analysis and Performance Unit (APU) sits at the centre of policing and provides professional analytical services across the organisation at all levels, both locally and within specialist areas, in support of organisational planning and operational policing delivery.

The products provided by APU analysts allow leaders within the organisation to make better informed decisions using robust analysis as evidence.

As an example, the performance statistics at Q1 above are published by APU on a quarterly basis, detailing current crime levels in different parts of Scotland to inform management information.

Our Demand & Productivity Unit (DPU) allows us to measure, understand and evidence demand experienced by Police Scotland.

Consisting of a mix of technical analysts, data scientists, statisticians, and police officers, the DPU has a footprint across the organisation, developing and supporting demand analysis. Having a team dynamic that is a mix of police officers and staff is important to us as a department as it allows staff to gain operational insights that can then be used in conjunction with the data as well as furthering our understanding of data streams.

The DPU measure the demand experienced by Police Scotland (and partners) in different ways and not simply volume, looking at full-time equivalents and factors that can affect the demand in different ways, such as events, seasonality, types of incidents, etc. Ultimately, this focuses on key issues and demand themes linked to strategic priorities that benefit the organisation.

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.