| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-2868  Responded to: xx December 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## In the year 2024 up to the most recent reporting period available - please provide:

## The number of drugs search warrants obtained for locations in South Ayrshire.

Please be advised that initiating warrants is undertaken by Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Office (COPFS) and Police Scotland will subsequently execute the search warrant according to the instruction contained within that warrant.

On that basis, for the period between 01/01/2024 and 26/11/2024 there were 50 drugs search warrants obtained in South Ayrshire.

## The number of drugs search warrants carried out in South Ayrshire.

Of the 50 search warrants obtained, 47 were executed.

Of the remaining three, two are currently with COPFS and an operational decision was made not to take the third forward.

## The general number of warrants carried out across South Ayrshire in terms of returning positive or negative results.

Of the 47 search warrants executed in South Ayrshire, there were 23 positive detections.

Please note there may be more than one detection or charge at an individual location, e.g. in cases relating to drugs supply.

## The estimated street value of drugs recovered across South Ayrshire during this time. A breakdown of drug class, and type (for example Cannabis, cocaine, diamorphine etc), recovered in South Ayrshire and the estimated street value of these.

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request.

I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

To explain, all drug related crimes are recorded in accordance with the appropriate Scottish Government Justice Department (SGJD) classification: [How we are performing - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/) and are not further sub-categorised - for example by seizure details or drug type.

All details relating to any drug possession seizure are recorded within the corresponding production logs, the investigation files and/or within the text of the corresponding crime record and are not collated for any statistical purpose - to clarify, any further government reporting is sample based.

Accordingly, the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to carry out an individual check of all potentially relevant crime reports, an exercise which would exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

## The total number of arrests made in South Ayrshire in relation to drugs offences during these periods.

The Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 removed the separate concepts of arrest and detention and replaced them with a power of arrest without warrant - where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting a person has committed, or is committing, an offence.

When a person is arrested, a statement of arrest should be read over as soon as reasonably practicable, and details recorded in the arresting officer’s notebook.

A person is ‘Not Officially Accused’ (a suspect) when arrested and not cautioned and charged. They are ‘Officially Accused’ once arrested and cautioned and charged.

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request and I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

For the reasons outlined above, Police Scotland do not collate data on arrests for any policing purpose. Instead, data is compiled and published based on recorded and detected crimes (by multi member ward) via [Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/).

For clarity, detected crimes are those where an accused has been identified and there exists a sufficiency of evidence under Scots Law to justify consideration of criminal proceedings.

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.