| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2137  Responded to: 18th September 2023 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1. From August 1st 2022 to July 31st 2023, how many parcels (ie. not a postcard, letter, or flat envelope) did your organisation receive? If the precise data isn’t available, please provide an estimate.

## 2. From August 1st 2022 to July 31st 2023, how many letters did your organisation receive? If the precise data is not available, please provide an estimate.

## 3. From August 1st 2022 to July 31st 2023, how many mail items (including packages, letters, and flat envelopes) did you receive that were deemed ‘suspicious’?

## This might include:

## • Parcels with protruding wires, aluminium foil, or oil stains

## • Mail items emitting a peculiar odour

## • Greasy or oily patches on the mail item

## • Mail items sealed in such a way so as to encourage opening them at a particular end

## • Unusually printed address that might include spelling errors

## • Adverse physical reaction to the handling of the mail item – e.g., itching or irritation

## • No return address or return address that cannot be verified

## • Unusual postmark or no postmark

## 4. In relation to question 3, how many of these suspicious mail items actually contained something dangerous / unpleasant / illegal?

## This might include:

## • Substances and objects which may explode

## • Gases which have been compressed, liquefied, or dissolved under pressure

## • Flammable liquids and solids

## • Biological substances

## • Asbestos

## • Controlled drugs and narcotics

## • Corrosives

## • Live creatures, insects, and invertebrates

## • Waste, dirt, filth, or refuse

## • Weapons and sharp objects

## • Poisons, toxic liquids, solids, and gases

## • Obscene publications or unlawful indecent images

## Please feel free to disregard this question if it will take too long to answer.

## 5. In relation to question 4, how many of these mail items did your organisation report to the police?

## 6. From August 1st 2022 to July 31st 2023, how many unpleasant / threatening letters did your organisation receive?

## This might include:

## • Letters containing threats to the organisation or a member of the organisation

## • Letters containing hate speech

## • Letters containing blackmail

## • Letters constituting harassment

## 7. If possible, what process do you have in place for receiving inbound mail?

## Please select all that apply.

## a) A record is kept of all packages and letters that arrived

## b) All mail items are scanned on delivery

## c) The mailroom is under 24/7 surveillance

## d) All mail is tracked all the way to the end recipient (if an individual)

## Please feel free to disregard this question if it will take too long to answer.

Having considered your request in terms of the above Act, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

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) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

By way of explanation, Police Scotland is a large organisation with premises spread all across Scotland. There is no centralised process or recording system in place for mail. Mail is managed in accordance with local procedures and the research involved in researching your request is therefore assessed to be extensive and would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

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.