| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-3024Responded to: 15th December 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I’m doing a video project on drug and alcohol culture in Turriff, Aberdeenshire. I am enquiring to see if there are any statistics since Covid that highlight a growth in substance abuse crimes, particularly in young adults in this area? If you could help with my research in any way possible it would be much appreciated.

Please be advised that statistics regarding offences involving drugs and alcohol 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”*

The information you are seeking is available on the Police Scotland website, broken down into Multi-Member Ward area, via the following link:

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

You can search the excel spreadsheet for ‘drug’ crimes and also ‘drunk’ and filter the data to ‘Turriff and District MMW’ only. Otherwise, the crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no markers etc. to indicate that any other crime was drug or alcohol related.

If you would like data for a shorter period other than the calendar month presentation provided, then you will have to specify what this is.

In regard to the age of the accused, 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, the crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no facility whereby the age of the accused can be easily extracted.

As such, all drug and drink related offences would have to be individually examined to establish details of the accused - an exercise which I estimate 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 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 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.