| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 24-2793Responded to: 27 November 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## In the last five years, how many times has Police Scotland engaged with rural communities and/or organisations representing rural interests on the topic of rural crime? (If possible, can you break this down by year).

## In terms of the answer to (1) could you outline which communities and or organisations Police Scotland has met to discuss matters related to rural crime?

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.

As you will be aware the current cost threshold is £600 or 40 hours and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

By way of explanation, Police Scotland covers substantial rural areas and have regular engagement with rural communities and organisations through the daily business of Policing. The number of engagements could not be accurately documented or broken down by year due to the volume and nature of such engagements.

During the requested period, Police Scotland, has had a Rural Crime Preventions Team, now known as Rural, Acquisitive and Business Preventions team (RAB-PT). This team has formal engagement with several rural organisations and communities via the Scottish Partnership against Rural Crime (SPARC). In addition to this, there are Local Partnerships against Rural Crime (LPARC’s) in place across most regions of Scotland. This provides additional opportunities to engage with rural organisations and communities and address crime at a regional level.

However, to be of assistance I can provide the following information.

The details of the organisations involved in SPARC can be accessed through the SPARC website here: [Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime | Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime](https://scottishparc.co.uk/)

The RAB-PT team attend numerous public events and rural shows to engage with rural communities and business:

The number of recorded formal engagements for RAB-PT are detailed below:

**SPARC –** (Quarterly meeting held in person with 20+ organisations represented)

2020 – 4 meetings

2021 – 4 meetings

2022 – 4 meetings

2023 – 4 meetings

2024 – 3 to date

**LPARCS** (There are 19 Local Parcs across Scotland. These are chaired largely by organisations such as local authorities or National Farmers Union, but all have Police representation)

2020 – 4 meetings

2021 – 43 meetings

2022 – 29 meetings

2023 - 48 meetings

2024 - 53 meetings to date

**Chair of Local Parc’s meetings** (Meetings between the respective chairs of all the Local Parcs)

2022 – 5 meetings

2023 – 5 meetings

2024 – 4 meetings to date

**PUBLIC EVENTS (**regional and national shows attended such as Royal Highland Show, Blair Horse Trials, Agri-Scot, Black Isle show etc)

2020 – 1 events

2021 – 6 events

2022 – 12 events

2023 – 11 events

2024 – 11 events

**Rural / Farm Walk & Talks:-** (Open engagement on rural site with members of the public and organisations on Rural crime issues)

2022 - 3 walk and talks.

2023 – 2 walk and talks

2024 – 1 walk and talk to date

In addition, the RAB-PT team has carried out numerous direct farm/rural site visits to provide security and crime prevention advice that are unable to be broken down into year or number.

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.