| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0206  Responded to: 25 January 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## The number of convictions (both protected and not protected) identified from applicants when conducting Recruitment Vetting for police officers in Police Scotland. Please provide this number for the financial years of 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and so far in 2022-23.

## Of applicants where a protected conviction was identified, how many of the applicants were successfully approved to become police officers in Police Scotland. Please provide this number for the financial years of 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and so far in 2022-23.

## Of applicants where a non-protected conviction was identified, how many of the applicants were successfully approved to become police officers in Police Scotland. Please provide this number for the financial years of 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and so far in 2022-23.

## If both a protected and non-protected conviction was identified for the same applicant please include them in my request number 3.

First of all, I would advise you that the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exclusions and Exceptions) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020 excepts police officer applicants from the requirements of rehabilitation legislation. As such, no convictions are considered ‘protected’ and any convictions can be considered for vetting purposes.

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, several thousand serving police officers have undergone recruitment vetting during the period April 2018 to date.

The vetting system does not have the functionality to identify any instances where an applicant who had criminal convictions was approved for vetting, meaning the records associated with each individual record would require to be checked.

In respect of applicants who have been refused vetting as a result of applicant convictions or alternatives to prosecution, I can provide you with the following data:

2018/19 - 20  
2019/20 - 24  
2020/21 - 24  
2021/22 - 29  
2022/23 - 60 (to 19 January 2023)

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.