| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-0423Responded to: 2nd March 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## How many officers based in the Highlands are:

## - Under local control?

## - Under special unit’s control?

Please be advised that Police Officer numbers for Highlands and Islands (N) Division are publicly available on the Police Scotland website, broken down by Local Police Officer Resources and Specialised Officers.

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 via the following link:

[Police Scotland Officer Numbers - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/police-scotland-officer-numbers/)

## How many overtime hours have been claimed in Police Scotland over the last 3 years, for every year?

The table below provides the number of overtime hours worked by Police Officers and Staff from April 2020 to January 2023.

|  | **2020/21** | **2021/22** | **2022/23** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Officer Hours** | 500,891 | 1,637,303 | 1,118,316 |
| **Staff Hours** | 109.649 | 184,567 | 156,588 |
| **Total** | **610,540**  | **1,821,870** | **1,274,904** |

## How much is payed per hour of overtime in Police Scotland?

In response to this question, 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 amount paid by hour is dependent on a number of factors, including the rate claimed (single, time & half, double) and the rank and increment level of each individual.

As such, individual assessment of every staff member’s record would have to be carried out – an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

## How many reported issues to police Scotland are non-crime related issues?

The table below provides the number of incidents recorded on STORM where a crime report was not submitted, broken down by division from 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2022.

| **Division** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| North East | 111,083 | 110,592 | 108,763 |
| Tayside | 108,565 | 105,322 | 105,070 |
| Highlands and Islands | 59,652 | 60,799 | 62,471 |
| Forth Valley | 73,308 | 69,880 | 66,586 |
| Edinburgh | 12,4756 | 123,910 | 127,145 |
| Lothian and Borders | 107,701 | 103,723 | 101,754 |
| Fife | 91,418 | 88,482 | 88,227 |
| Greater Glasgow | 212,809 | 206,643 | 196,084 |
| Ayrshire | 88,175 | 84,495 | 78,054 |
| Lanarkshire | 145,961 | 135,698 | 127,465 |
| Argyll and West Dunbartonshire | 42,167 | 39,908 | 36,622 |
| Renfrewshire and Inverclyde | 60,590 | 59,514 | 55,575 |
| Dumfries and Galloway | 31,766 | 32,260 | 31,141 |
| **Total**  | **1,257,951** | **1,221,226** | **1,184,957** |

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 23/2/2023.

## How many of these non-crime reported issues are to do with mental health?

The table below provides the number of incidents recorded on STORM, containing ‘Mental Health Related’ disposal code, where a crime report was not submitted, by Divisional area from 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2022.

| **Division** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| North East | 1,625 | 1,905 | 2,133 |
| Tayside | 2,001 | 1,721 | 1,519 |
| Highland and Islands | 883 | 1,276 | 1,193 |
| Forth Valley | 924 | 864 | 986 |
| Edinburgh | 2,123 | 1,897 | 1,882 |
| Lothian and Borders | 1,570 | 1,754 | 1,800 |
| Fife | 1,136 | 1,220 | 1,532 |
| Greater Glasgow | 3,817 | 4,438 | 4,984 |
| Ayrshire | 1,307 | 1,284 | 1,375 |
| Lanarkshire | 1,785 | 1,941 | 2,415 |
| Argyll and West Dunbartonshire | 935 | 1,062 | 1,112 |
| Renfrewshire and Inverclyde | 1,134 | 1,425 | 1,177 |
| Dumfries and Galloway | 571 | 664 | 642 |
| **Total** | **19,811** | **21,451** | **22,750** |

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 23/2/2023.

## How many hours of foot patrols did the Highlands and Islands experience from police officers every week for the last year?

Having considered your questions in terms of the Act, I’m afraid that section 17 of the Act would apply and the specific information requested is not held by Police Scotland.

By way of explanation, police officer deployment is dynamic and will plans will change regularly as a result of intelligence and/ or operational need.

Officers can be diverted from what might be described as a routine patrol in order to respond to an ongoing incident etc.

Similarly patrols may become ‘routine’ over a period of days/ weeks as a result of a particular incident or particular community concerns etc. but then resources are deployed elsewhere as the situation changes.

We do not record what part of an officer’s shift is spent on patrol as opposed to dealing with particular incidents etc.

Officers will be deployed in real time according to operation need.

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.