| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-2853  Responded to: 5 December 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## The number of drugs search warrants obtained for locations in North Ayrshire.

Please be advised that initiating warrants is undertaken by Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Office (COPFS) and Police Scotland will subsequently execute the search warrant according to the instruction contained within that warrant.

On that basis, for the period between 01/01/2024 and 29/11/2024 there were 108 drugs search warrants obtained in North Ayrshire.

## The number of drugs search warrants carried out in North Ayrshire.

Of the 108 search warrants obtained, 104 were executed.

Warrants are granted on a property rather than an individual, so if we assess the person has moved on, we won’t execute the warrant if we know it’s likely to be negative.

## The general number of warrants carried out across North Ayrshire in terms of returning positive or negative results.

Of the 104 search warrants executed in North Ayrshire, there were 66 positive detections.

Please note there may be more than one detection or charge at an individual location, e.g. in cases relating to drugs supply.

## The estimated street value of drugs recovered across North Ayrshire during this time.

## A breakdown of drug class, and type (for example Cannabis, cocaine, diamorphine etc), recovered in North Ayrshire and the estimated street value of these.

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process this part of your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

By way of explanation, we would have to review all relevant crime reports for North Ayrshire to determine the drug type and estimated street value.

## The total number of arrests made in Ayrshire in relation to drugs offences during these periods - broken down into locality area.

The Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 removed the separate concepts of arrest and detention and replaced them with a power of arrest without warrant - where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting a person has committed, or is committing, an offence.

When a person is arrested, a statement of arrest should be read over as soon as reasonably practicable, and details recorded in the arresting officer’s notebook.

A person is ‘Not Officially Accused’ (a suspect) when arrested *and* *not* cautioned and charged. They are ‘Officially Accused’ once arrested *and* cautioned and charged.

If conveyed to a police station, the arrested person will have their details recorded in our National Custody System.

There are situations however whereby a person must be released from police custody prior to their arrival at a police station - effectively they are ‘de-arrested’ - where the reasonable grounds for suspicion no longer exist. In those circumstances, the details of an arrested person are not held electronically.

As a result, we are unfortunately unable to collate comprehensivearrest data, as case by case assessment of all officer notebooks would be required - in addition to the partialarrest data held in the National Custody System.

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request and I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

For the reasons outlined above, Police Scotland do not collate data on arrests.

Instead, data is compiled and published based on recorded and detected crimes and to be of assistance published stats broken down by Multi Member Ward can be found at the link below.

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

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.