| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-0783  Responded to: 28th March 2024 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

I would like to know the number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued and prosecutions relating to misrepresented number plates in the years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 within the jurisdiction of Police Scotland.

Data regarding FPNs issued in 2020 is no longer held by Police Scotland in accordance with our record retention policies and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

Over the course of 2021 and 2022, the systems used by Police Scotland to FPNs, and the way the offences are recorded, were changed. During this time a phased divisional roll out took place meaning that for FPNs recorded prior to March 2022, full details, including the specific offence type, are not searchable.

A manual search of all FPNs would therefore be required to identify any relating to number plate offences specifically.

As such, 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) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

For the period of March to December 2022 and 2023 please see the table below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Offence description** | **(Mar - Dec) 2022** | **2023** |
| Obscured number/Hackney carriage plate | 98 | 92 |
| Registration mark (size, shape, or character of letters etc.) | 618 | 979 |

For prosecutions relating to misrepresented number plates the information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

For further information you may wish to visit [Crime info | COPFS](https://www.copfs.gov.uk/crime-info/)

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.