| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-3295Responded to: 19 January2024 |
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## Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, can your force reveal the annual number of arrests made in towns & cities across Scotland related to excessive alcohol consumption on the sections of the month of December just before Christmas Eve & Christmas Day between 2013 and 2023?

## The Christmas Weekend dates are listed below

## 2007 - 21st, 22nd & 23rd

## 2008 - 19th, 20th & 21st

## 2009 - 18th, 19th & 20th

## 2010 - 23rd & 24th

## 2011 - 23rd

## 2012 - 21st, 22nd & 23rd

## 2013 - 20th, 21st & 22nd

## 2014 - 19th, 20th & 21st

## 2015 - 19th, 18th & 20th

## 2016 - 23rd

## 2017 - 22nd & 23rd

## 2018 - 21st, 22nd & 23rd

## 2019 - 20th, 21st & 22nd

## 2020 - 18th, 19th & 20th

## 2021 - 17, 18th, 19th & 23rd

## 2022 - 23rd

## 2023 - 22nd & 23rd

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 practical 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.

Police Scotland typically produce data instead based on recorded and detected crimes, broken down by Scottish Government Justice Department (SGJD) classification:

[Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/). This data is for Multi Member Wards by month and you can search ‘drunk’.

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.