| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-3072  Responded to: 18 December 2024 |
| --- | --- |

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

## In the past 5 years, how many claims have been made against the police force? (Between March 31 - April 1) Broken down by years 2019/2020, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24.

I have provided below a table showing the number of claims, broken down by type, made against Police Scotland for each financial year:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Public Liability | Employers Liability | Motor Liability | Employment tribunal | Annual total |
| 2019/2020 | 191 | 28 | 155 | 29 | 403 |
| 2020/2021 | 147 | 13 | 204 | 22 | 386 |
| 2021/2022 | 136 | 30 | 322 | 27 | 515 |
| 2022/2023 | 136 | 23 | 387 | 24 | 570 |
| 2023/2024 | 121 | 34 | 370 | 39 | 564 |

## 1a. Can this be broken down by reason for the claim (i.e. traffic accident, assault, wrongful arrest, sexual misconduct, property damage etc.)

In accordance with Sections 12(1) (Excessive cost of compliance) and 16(4) (Refusal of request) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (the Act), this letter represents a Refusal Notice.

By way of explanation, information on case type cannot be broken down further without a review of each individual file. There are 2,438 files in total and a review for this information would take approximately 5 minutes per file, totalling 203 hours, which is in excess of the £600 and 40 hour cost limit prescribed by the Scottish Ministers under the Act.

2. Can you provide the number and cost of such claims closed (or settled with a periodical payment order) between financial years 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24 with a damages payment?

In accordance with Sections 12(1) (Excessive cost of compliance) and 16(4) (Refusal of request) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (the Act), this letter represents a Refusal Notice.

By way of explanation, this information cannot be broken down individually by case type as this would require a review of each individual file. There are 320 files in total and a review would take approximately 10 minutes per file, totalling 53.3 hours, which is in excess of the £600 and 40 hour cost limit prescribed by the Scottish Ministers under the Act.

Further, the cases on which sums of compensation were paid out each year may not relate to files which were opened in that particular year. Claims often take a number of years to process and compensation is often not paid until some time after the claim is initially made.

I have, however, provided below a table showing the total number of claims on which compensation was paid out each year, together with the total sums of compensation paid out each year:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Number of cases references | Total settlements |
| 2019/20 | 76 | £540,626 |
| 2020/21 | 56 | £493,571 |
| 2021/22 | 64 | £1,683,240 |
| 2022/23 | 70 | £241,284 |
| 2023/24 | 54 | £319,097 |
| Total | 320 | £3,277,818 |

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.