| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1654  Responded to: 15 August 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Officer numbers

## How many officers are deployed specifically to cover the show over the period of the Royal Highland Show 2023? This includes officers' rostered on normal shift patterns and officers' on overtime or annual leave. This includes officers on traffic management duties

## Of these officers, how many are on overtime or annual leave or would not otherwise be working?

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 believe the exemptions Section 35 (1) (a) and (b) Law Enforcement and Section 39 (1) Health, Safety and the Environment apply.

Section 35 (1) (a) and (b) Law Enforcement

Information is considered exempt if its disclosure under this Act would or would be likely to prejudice substantially the prevention or detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

Disclosing details of officer allocation would allow those with criminal intent to accurately plan and develop strategies enable them to commit crime and avoid justice.

This is a non-absolute exemption and requires the application of the public interest test.

Section 39 (1) Health, Safety, and the Environment

If the requested information was to be disclosed, the information could then be used to orchestrate attacks on operational police officers, members of the public or any public figures. As such, disclosure of the requested information has the potential to present a risk to an individual’s personal safety.

This is a non-absolute exemption and requires the application of the public interest test.

Public Interest Test

I would suggest that public accountability may favour disclosure, given that the information concerns the efficient and effective use of resources by the Service. Likewise, disclosure of the information would also inform the public debate on the issue of policing and contribute to the accuracy of that debate.

However, any disclosure under FOI legislation is a disclosure to the world at large and any information identifying the focus of policing activity could be used to the advantage of criminals.

Consequently, in terms of the applicability of the exemptions listed above, the need to ensure the effective conduct of the service in relation to prevention and detection of crime and the public safety considerations involved in the delivery of operational policing clearly favour non-disclosure of the information requested.

Accordingly, I would argue that the need to ensure the efficient and effective conduct of the service favours non-disclosure of the information requested and on balance is significantly in the public interest. I cannot identify any corresponding viewpoint in disclosing the requested information and therefore the exemptions are upheld.

I must advise you that it is doubtful it could ever be in the public interest to disclose information which would jeopardise the delivery of policing and the safety of individuals and prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

## Costs

## 2.1 What has been the total cost of the policing operation for the Royal Highland Show 2023?

## 2.2 What if any contribution has been paid by:

## 2.2.1 Royal Highland and Agricultural Society (RHASS)

## 2.2.2 Royal Highland Centre

## 2.2.3 The City of Edinburgh Council

## 2.2.4 Edinburgh Airport

## 2.2.5 Government funding

## 2.2.6 Funding from within Police Scotland's existing budget

In terms of Section 17 of the Act, I can confirm that the information you have requested is not held by Police Scotland.

By way of explanation, to date costs for the Royal Highland Show 2023 are not finalised.

However, to be of assistance I can advise that for the financial year 2023/2024, £95,030 was charged to The Royal Highland Centre.

## 3. Resources (other than officers)

## 3.1 How many police Scotland vehicles have been deployed at the Royal Highland Show 2023?

In response to this question please see the response to question 1.

## 3.2 What has been the direct cost of vehicle deployment? This includes fuel costs, mileage costs, leasing and all other costs.

In terms of Section 17 of the Act, I can confirm that all the information you have requested is not held by Police Scotland.

By way of explanation, fuel costs and milage costs are not recorded specifically for the Royal Highland Show.

To be of assistance I can advise that a 9-seat vehicle was hired for use at the Royal Highland Show at a cost of £295.52.

## 3.3 What percentage of 3.2 above has been met from within Police Scotland's existing budget?

As question 3.2 is considered exempt this subsidiary question is not applicable.

## 4. Previous years

## 4.1 Can you please provide the answers to questions 1 and 2 above for the previous 3 Royal Highland Shows (ie 2018, 2019 and 2022)

Regarding your request for data relating to question 1 for The Royal Highland Show for the years 2018, 2019 and 2020, please see the response to the question 1 above.

Disclosing any data in relation to officer allocation, even historical information would allow those with criminal intent to forward plan and estimate officer resources, allowing them to commit crime and potentially avoid detection and apprehension.

With regards to question 2 for the years 2018, 2019 and 2020, 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 more than 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,some of the costs associated with the Royal Highland Show are considered core policing duties or business as usual, this information is not recorded.

With respect to fluctuating costs such as overtime, it is important to understand that policing is a dynamic and time critical environment. On occasion officers may be required to remain at work beyond their allocated shift time to manage an ongoing matter, this would be considered core overtime. However due to shift changeovers or ongoing incidents it may be the case that this core overtime did not take place within their duties at the Royal Highland Show. To determine this information a manual assessment of officer notebooks would need to take place. Due to the officer numbers this is an exercise that would greatly exceed the cost threshold set out within the Act.

Police Scotland have assessed that the £600 cost limit within the Act equates to 40 hours of work and so this part of your request would breach the cost threshold.

It is worthy of note that even if a manual assessment did take place, the information would likely be incomplete as the officer may or may not have recorded the required information within their notebook.

However, to be of assistance, I can advise costs paid to Police Scotland by The Royal Highland Centre for the years 2018, 2019, and 2022 are noted below in financial years.

Costs paid by The Royal Highland Centre by Financial Year.

| Financial Year | Costs |
| --- | --- |
| 2018/2019 | £77,506 |
| 2019/2020 | £81,367 |
| 2022/2023 | £77,935 |

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.