| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2448  Responded to: 13th November 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**In accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I request that the following information be provided, as a matter of public interest:**

**Over the duration of the Coronavirus pandemic, January 2020 – December 2022, please advise:**

1. **How many Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) were issued in Scotland for people not wearing a face covering in public places? Please also provide the number of FPNs that were paid and how many were not paid.**

Before I answer your questions, I must make you aware of a number of caveats that relate to our response. These caveats apply to answers provided for all 4 questions.

Firstly, the figures recorded are generated by Officers manually recording their engagements on the Corona Virus Intervention application. This application was designed for information purposes only and not for statistical reporting. There is a legislative requirement for officers to record their engagements (within their notebooks) but there is not a similar legislative requirement to enter these into this specific reporting software which was designed internally. For this reason we cannot verify the accuracy of the figures provided and cannot indicate any known compliance rate of Officers transcribing their engagements to this system.

In relation to question 1 specifically, at the start of the pandemic the system did not have a separate option to record face covering offences. This option was added in November 2020 and so these figures are provided from this date. Prior to this date, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information requested is not held by Police Scotland.

In relation to the remaining period, 18 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) are recorded.

In relation to the number of FPN which were paid/not paid, FPN are paid to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) rather than Police Scotland and we do not hold any information in this regard. As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information requested is not held by Police Scotland. This applies to all 4 of your questions where you ask for statistics on the payment of fines.

You may wish to make a request to COPFS directly using the following email address: [foi@copfs.gov.uk](mailto:foi@copfs.gov.uk)

1. **How many Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) were issued to businesses that refused to comply with government request to close down operations during the lockdown? Please also provide a breakdown of the number of FPNs that were paid and how many were not paid.**

Emphasising the caveats above, no information is held in regards to FPN issued to businesses. As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information requested is not held by Police Scotland.

To be of some assistance I can confirm that during the period requested, 111 Closures of Premises were made by Police due to lack of compliance. 436 Interventions were made at premises which did not result in a closure.

1. **How many Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) were issued in Scotland for breaching lockdown restrictions, including but not limited to: leaving their home, small gatherings, large gatherings, party or rave with more than 30 people, leaving the United Kingdom without a ‘reasonable excuse’, failure to present or complete ‘travel declaration form’ ? Please also provide a breakdown of the number of FPNs that were paid and how many were not paid.**

Emphasising the caveats above, we do not hold the requested information broken down by the categories requested. As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information requested is not held by Police Scotland.

To be of some assistance I can confirm that of the 17,007 FPN issued, 12,744 were issued in a Private Dwelling, 3,551 in a Public Place and 712 in Private Property – Other (Including Commercial Premises). I would advise that again figures prior to November 2020 will not include face covering, quarantine or travel restrictions.

1. **How many Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) in Scotland were issued for people failing to follow quarantine instructions? Please also provide a breakdown of the number of FPNs that were paid and how many were not paid.**

Similar to question 1, at the start of the pandemic the system did not have a separate option to record quarantine instructions. This option was added in November 2020 and so these figures are provided from this date. Prior to this date, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information requested is not held by Police Scotland.

Emphasising the caveats above, 19 FPN were issued in the period requested.

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.