| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1550  Responded to: 22 July 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

1. **The total expenditure on small arms ammunition (for example, but not limited to, 9mm, 5.56mm etc) every year from 2014 to 2024. Please provide the total expenditure per year.**

Having considered your request in terms of the above Act, 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 well in excess of 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, the information you are requesting is not held in a format that we can easily extract information relating to small arms ammunition only.

The only way to establish this, would be to individually examine all ammunition invoices for the past 10 years. As such, this is an exercise which would exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

**2. What contracts were awarded using the delegated framework agreements (for values of call-off contracts below £500k), how many of them were there (the number per year is sufficient).**

**3. What contracts were awarded via tender under the Public Contract Regulations (2015), and where and when were these advertised.**

**I do not require the name or details of the suppliers chosen or any commercial details.**

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.

Where information is considered to be exempt, this letter serves as a Refusal Notice that information is held and an explanation of the appropriate exemption is provided below.

The following exemptions are applicable to the above requested information.

**Section 31(1) - National Security and Defence**

To reveal, into the public domain, the supplier and order values for PsoS procurement of ammunition, may assist criminals or terrorist organisations to interpret with some accuracy, the capability of the Services armed response to firearms and terrorist incidents. This information could then be used by such persons to effective use and would provide them with a tactical advantage when planning or perpetrating their criminal or terrorist plans and activities, thus enabling them to cause the maximum impact of destruction and disruption.

Furthermore, when such a request is replicated to all Police forces within the United Kingdom it would allow comparisons to be made across the UK and enable terrorists to build a picture of where policing resources and capability of firearms are in place and where they may or may not be currently deployed.

Disclosure would allow them take steps to prepare for such deployment which would provide them with a tactical advantage when planning or perpetrating their terrorist plans

and activities and cause the maximum impact of destruction and disruption.

The security of the United Kingdom is of paramount importance and Police Scotland will not disclose further details of such information if it would impact on National Security, law enforcement and the health and safety of the community.

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

## Section 35 (1) (a) & (b) – Law Enforcement

Information is exempt information 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.

Public safety is of paramount importance and disclosure of this information would allow criminals the ability to assess the capability of Police Scotland.

Disclosure of this information would enable criminals to build a picture of resources and capabilities and as such would allow them to carry out their criminal activities.

To disclose this information into the public domain would compromise the effective delivery of operational law enforcement. In addition, the requested information, if disclosed, could be used to calculate how and when resources are allocated within the specialist areas of protection.

Those with criminal intent would then be in a position to more accurately estimate the resources allocated to protect such individuals in the future.

This is a non-absolute exemption which requires the application of the Public Interest Test.

**Public Interest Test**

The exemptions listed above are non-absolute and require the application of the Public Interest Test. I would suggest that public accountability would favour disclosure, given that the information concerns the efficient and effective use of resources by the Service.

However 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.

On balance the public interest on this occasion favours non-disclosure of this data.

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.