| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1587  Responded to: 13th July 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Please provide the following information for the period 2019-2023, broken down by year (I am happy to accept calendar years or financial years provided this is consistent for all data).**

1. **The number of officers suspended each year.**

You may be interested in our [Suspension from Duty SOP](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/3mbmetbo/suspension-from-duty-sop.pdf).

Data has been provided below on the number of officers whose suspensions commenced between 01/04/2019 and 31/03/2023, broken down by the financial year of commencement.

Please note that officers whose suspension start date precedes this date period - but served a suspension during that period - are not included in the figures provided below.

*Police officers suspended, by financial year*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **2019/20** | **2020/21** | **2021/22** | **2022/23** |
| Officers suspended | 22 | 25 | 28 | 50 |

1. **What these suspensions related to e.g. sexual misconduct, bullying, any other categorisation used internally.**

Data has been provided below on suspension circumstances linked to Police officer suspensions, commenced between 01/04/2019 and 31/03/2023, broken down by the financial year.

The categorisation of matters relating to suspended officers is for management information only.

Matters under investigation may relate to more than one category but it will be the predominant matter that is selected for the categorisation based on the information known at the time.

*Police officers suspended, by category of suspension circumstances and financial year*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Category of Suspension Circumstances** | **2019/20** | **2020/21** | **2021/22** | **2022/23** |
| Crimes of Violence (including common assault) | 0 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Data Protection | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| Domestic | 4 | 6 | 9 | 8 |
| Fraud | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Other | 5 | 3 | 7 | 8 |
| Road Traffic Matter | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sexual | 9 | 13 | 8 | 21 |
| Theft | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Total | 22 | 25 | 28 | 50 |

1. **How long each suspension lasted.**

Data has been provided below on the length of suspension linked to Police officer suspensions, commenced between 01/04/2019 and 31/03/2023, broken down by the financial year.

Please note that suspensions may remain ongoing.

Therefore, the number of days for ongoing suspensions is based on the difference between the date of suspension and the date of this request (19/06/2023).

Where suspensions have been concluded, the number of days is based on the difference between the date of suspension and the suspension end date.

*Police officers suspended, by length of suspension and financial year*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Number of Days Suspended** | **2019/20** | **2020/21** | **2021/22** | **2022/23** |
| Under 180 days | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 |
| 180 - 365 days | 0 | 0 | 0 | 26 |
| 366 - 730 days | 0 | 0 | 26 | 10 |
| Over 730 days | 22 | 25 | 2 | 0 |
| Total | 22 | 25 | 28 | 50 |

1. **The amount of money paid to suspended officers in wages, bonuses or any other payment from the force while they were suspended.**

In response, 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.

To first explain, payments to suspended individuals are not specifically marked and would be calculated by payroll in the normal manner and paid directly.

As there is no automated method of identifying the relevant expenditure, any undertaking to identify such payments would require us to interrogate our payroll system for details relating to every relevant officer in each of the time periods requested.

In summary, without a largely manual exercise we would have no way of answering this question, and this is true even across a much reduced timescale.

As the information requested is not held in an easily retrievable format, the research and calculations involved would require significant resource, assessed to exceed the £600 cost limit.

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.