| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0628  Responded to: 24th March 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## How many people have people who are taken into custody who are given a warning marker of “suicidal” or “attempted suicide” on their arrest record or have these markers on their crime record as recorded suspects, or already have these warning markers on their crime record at the time of arrest - I’d like the figures for 1st January to 31st December 2019, 1st January to 31st December 2020, 1st January to 31st December 2021, 1st January to 31st December 2022? Just to clarify, this is suicidal before police intervention, not a result of police intervention.

## Following this - how many of these arrests resulted in charges? I’d like the figures from 1st January to 31st December 2019, 1st January to 31st December 2020, 1st January to 31st December 2021, 1st January to 31st December 2022?

As you may be aware, the current cost threshold set out in the FOI fee regulations is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of that amount to process your request.

On that basis, I am therefore unable to provide you with the information sought and section 12(1) of the Act applies - excessive cost of compliance.

By way of explanation, the Police Scotland National Custody System has functionality whereby a ‘suicidal/ self-harm’ marker can be appended to the record of a person brought into custody.

Not only does the marker therefore cover both types of vulnerability, it is impossible to determine (other than via case by case research) whether the individual was suicidal specifically and, if so, whether that was as a result of police intervention or a pre-existing vulnerability otherwise known to Police Scotland.

To put this into context, for the three year period 2019 to 2022, 74,240 custody records have the ‘suicidal/ self-harm’ marker.

Your request goes on to ask about people brought into custody who already have, at that point, information on other police systems that would suggest they were previously known to be suicidal.

It would be reasonable to expect that if that were the case, the ‘suicidal/ self-harm’ marker would be appended to their custody record.

However, to provide a definitive answer to your request, a full background check of *all* individuals brought into custody over the three year period would be required and the figures involved would be in the hundreds of thousands.

Taking all of the above into account, I’m afraid I can see no means by which your request could be meaningfully refined to bring it within the cost threshold.

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.