| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-0832  Responded to: 24 April 2024 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I am requesting the following information about drug use in the police.**

**1. How many drug tests have you conducted on police staff in each of the last 5 years? Please break this down to year by year where possible.**

After seeking clarification, it is acknowledged your query relates to both Police officers and Police staff and you requested the information be “broken down separately for both civilian staff and police officers”.

Serving officers and staff may be subject to ‘With Cause’ testing for potential misuse of drugs, where relevant information or intelligence is received.

You may be interested in the [Substance Misuse SOP](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/ecuj3zq5/substance-misuse-sop.pdf).

We can confirm the number of ‘With Cause’ tests conducted over the last 5 financial years, 1 April to 31 March, are as follows:

*Table 1: Total ‘With Cause’ tests carried out by financial year*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **2019/20** | | **2020/21** | | **2021/22** | | **2022/23** | | **2023/24** | |
| **Officers** | **Staff** | **Officers** | **Staff** | **Officers** | **Staff** | **Officers** | **Staff** | **Officers** | **Staff** |
| 5 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 0 |

**2. How many police staff have tested positive for illegal drug use in each of the last 5 years? Please break this down year by year where possible.**

*Table 2: Total positive ‘With Cause’ tests by financial year*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **2019/20** | | **2020/21** | | **2021/22** | | **2022/23** | | **2023/24** | |
| **Officers** | **Staff** | **Officers** | **Staff** | **Officers** | **Staff** | **Officers** | **Staff** | **Officers** | **Staff** |
| 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |

In relation to the 2023/24 financial year, it should be noted that there is one test result still pending.

**3. Please also include which substance was positively detected in each drug test, and break this down year by year.**

Please note that some results may have detected more than one illegal substance, which is why the figures in Table 3 are greater than the figures shown in Table 2.

*Table 3: Illegal substances detected in ‘With Cause’ tests by financial year*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2019/20** | **2020/21** | **2021/22** | **2022/23** | **2023/24** |
| **Buprenorphine** | **1** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** |
| **Cocaine** | **1** | **1** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| **Amphetamine** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **1** | **0** |

**4. Please explain where applicable what disciplinary action was taken relating to each positive drug test.**

To provide some general context, the formal disciplinary process for Police Officers is governed by [The Police Service of Scotland (Conduct) Regulations 2014](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2014/68/contents/made).

Of note, the Regulations cease to have effect when an officer retires or resigns as they only apply to serving officers.

The associated [Scottish Government Guidance Document](https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/factsheet/2018/04/conduct-and-performance-procedures-police-guidance/documents/police-guidance-conduct-procedures/police-guidance-conduct-procedures/govscot%3Adocument/Police%2BService%2Bof%2BScotland%2B%2528conduct%2529%2Bregulations%2B2014.pdf) provides further information on the process and allegations are categorised in line with our [Standards of Professional Behaviour](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/who-we-are/our-standards-of-professional-behaviour/).

Of the seven Police officers who tested positive, six officers resigned prior to a misconduct hearing and misconduct proceedings remain ongoing for one officer.

The formal disciplinary process for Police Staff is set out in our [Disciplinary SOP](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/kqeo5ogi/disciplinary-sop.docx).

Disciplinary proceedings remain ongoing for the one member of Police staff who tested positive in 2022/23.

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.