| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-2917Responded to: 29th November 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## How much was spent on paid informants in 2021-2?

In response to this question, I can advise you of the following:-

| **Year** | **Paid to CHIS** |
| --- | --- |
| 2021 | £305,588.72 |
| 2022 | £288,850.80 |

## 2.How much was spent on paid informants in the Lothian Border Region 2002-4?

## 3.How much was spent on paid informants in the Dalkieth area 2002-4?

## 4.How many informants were being paid by police in 2021-2 and 2002-4.

I am refusing to confirm or deny whether the information sought exists or is held by Police Scotland in terms of section 18 of the Act.

Section 18 applies where the following two conditions are met:

* It would be contrary to the public interest to reveal whether the information is held

The key test when considering where the balance of public interest lies is to establish whether, in all the circumstances of the request, the public interest in confirming or denying the information is held is not outweighed by maintaining the exemption(s). Although I consider that public awareness would favour a disclosure as it would contribute to the public debate surrounding the application of these measures, we must ensure that the release of this level of detail is not inadvertently providing potentially harmful information and placing an individual at risk.

This is a matter of principle which applies equally to any member of the public who could find themselves subject to this or other protective measures in a variety of circumstances.

In conclusion, it simply cannot be in the public interest for Police Scotland or any police force to confirm details of those individuals who are currently, or have been in the past, subject to this process. This explanation should not be taken as indicative or conclusive evidence that the information you have requested does or does not exist.

* If the information was held, it would be exempt from disclosure in terms of one or more of the exemptions set out in sections 28 to 35, 38, 39(1) or 41 of the Act. The following exemptions are considered relevant:

Section 35(1)(a)&(b) - Law Enforcement

Section 39(1) - Health and Safety

Section 34(1)(b) - Investigations

Section 38(1)(b) - Personal information

The information sought would clearly provide a significant insight into CHIS activity at a very localised level as opposed to the annual, force level disclosure of financial information only which is assessed to be the safe level at which data can be disclosed.

Disclosure of the information, if held, could lead to CHIS being identified and being placed at risk of harm as a consequence.

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 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 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.