| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2341  Responded to: 09 October 2023 |
| --- | --- |

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

## Under the Freedom of Information Act can I please request the following data for the calendar years 2018, 2019, 2022, 2021, 2022 and 2023-present:

## On how many occasions did a police patrol car break down?

I have interpreted your meaning of “break down” to mean an occasion where the vehicle suddenly ceases to function/an event that stops the vehicle from being driven.

In terms of Section 17 of the Act, I can confirm that the information you have requested is not held by Police Scotland.

By way of explanation Police Scotland do not record the number of occasions that a vehicle has broken down.

If a vehicle is brought to the workshop due to a fault, work is undertaken to complete repairs and all work carried out is recorded as part of the individual vehicle’s service history.

There are 1552 marked police vehicles on the fleet list, to examine the service histories for each vehicle would greatly exceed the cost threshold set out within the Act, even with a highly conservative estimate of 5 minutes per vehicle, this equate to an excess of 129 hours of work, 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.

To view the marked vehicle fleet list, please see the link below.

[Fleet information - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/fleet-information/)

To be of assistance I can advise that between April and May 2023, Police Scotland have contacted roadside assistance on 506 occasions.

It is important to note that each circumstance of roadside assistance may or may not relate to a broken-down vehicle by the interpretation above. To determine this, a manual assessment of each record would need to take place. Again, a highly conservative estimate is that it would take 5 minutes to fully assess a single record, this would equate to an excess of 42 hours. To complete a manual assessment for all roadside assistance from 2018 to 2023 would greatly exceed the cost threshold set out within the Act, 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.

## On how many occasions did a patrol car break down on the way to an incident?

Again, in response to this question, 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 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 requested.

By way of explanation, there is no straightforward method to determine if any police vehicle has broken down on the way to an incident, to determine this, a manual assessment of all incidents would need to take place to identify if it was recorded that the vehicle had broken down. An excess of one thousand incidents can be created daily. Using one thousand incidents as a base figure and using a highly conservative estimate of 5 minutes per record this would equate to and excess of 83 hours of work greatly exceeding the cost threshold set out within the Act.

Police Scotland have assessed that the £600 cost limit within the Act equates to 40 hours of work and so this part of your request would breach the cost threshold.

Whilst I would normally suggest a revised timescale is considered, as even a single day vastly exceeds the cost threshold within the Act, I do not believe there is a way this question can be answered within cost in its current form.

## In each case, what was the cause of the break down?

## How much did it cost to fix?

Regretfully, in response to the two questions above, I must again respond in 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 requested.

As noted in the response to question 1, the cause of the break down is noted within the service histories of each individual vehicle. To manually assess each service history would exceed 129 hours of work greatly exceeding the cost threshold set out within the Act.

Likewise, with identifying costs, again each service history would need to be assessed to determine the repairs, this would then have to cross referenced with relevant invoices to determine specific costs.

Finance hold thousands of invoices that would require manual checking and cross refencing to determine exact costs. This is an exercise that would greatly exceed the cost threshold set out within the Act.

Police Scotland have assessed that the £600 cost limit within the Act equates to 40 hours of work and so this part of your request would breach the cost threshold.

Whilst I would normally suggest a way you could revise your question to provide data, due to the way in which data is recorded, I do not believe there is a way this question can be answered within cost in its current form.

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.