| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-2326  Responded to: xx September 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1. How many times in the last 5 years has your Police Force broken into the wrong home address by mistake searching for evidence?

## 2. How many times did your Police Force:

## a) Use breaking in as a first resort

## b) Consider and use less intrusive methods of pursuing evidence?

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

To explain there is no central register which holds all the warrants craved or executed in Scotland as part of any investigation.

A sample of one subdivision (City of Edinburgh) provides that there were 320 warrants craved for 2019 alone and moreover the register will also contain warrants which officers were planning to crave but have not done so as well as those which an officer craved but was not required to execute.

In order to provide an accurate response we would have to confirm every warrant across Scotland which was executed and then establish whether they were for the right/wrong address. This would require a manual examination of thousands of warrants, an exercise which would far exceed the limits provided by the Act.

To be of some assistance you may be interested in the Forced Entry and Insecure Premises SOP available via the link below:

[Standard Operating Procedures D-F - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/policies-and-procedures/standard-operating-procedures/standard-operating-procedures-d-f/)

## 3. What is the highest, lowest and average compensation or restitution paid?

I must again refuse to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance as I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request.

In order to accurately answer this request we would first have to consider every public liability claim to establish if it included any claim in respect of damage to a door. This is a relatively common occurrence (which do not all relate to forced entry to the wrong property).

There is no automatic search facility which would allow us to easily recover this level of detail and every potential incident report would have to be individually assessed, an exercise which has been estimated to exceed the cost limitations of the Act.

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.