

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0016
Date: 1 February 2022



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

I am writing under the FOI act to get information regarding human trafficking in Scotland from the Border Policing Command arm of Police Scotland.

I would like information regarding human trafficking offences recorded in the past five calendar years - or financial years, however you store your data.

Please see the table below for the information requested.

Please provide all incidents which involved suspected human trafficking and where it took place, for example at X airport, X private airfield, or X ferry or seaport.

Please provide some information about the incident, for example X number of suspected X nationals suspected to have been trafficked into Scotland discovered by border policing officers.

Where possible, please provide any details of what action was taken, for example drivers arrested, or any prosecutions brought.

In relation to the location, number of suspected nationals and details of what action taken, 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 you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request. 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 sought.

By way of explanation, to obtain the information sought would require an individual to review 572 files, this would be a significant task and exceed the cost and times threshold. If we estimate that it would take 10 minutes to review each file this would total over a 90 hours and at a cost of £15 per hour this would exceed time and cost threshold set my ministers.

OFFICIAL

Should you require any further assistance concerning this matter please contact Information Management – Glasgow at foiglasgow@scotland.pnn.police.uk quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalrnarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.

OFFICIAL

Table 1.

Recorded Crimes under the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015 as Police Scotland totals

Period: 1st January 2017 - 31st December 2021 broken by calendar year

Offence	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
101110 - Slavery or Forced Labour	59	98	210	86	111
101111 - Human Organ Offences	0	1	0	0	0
503923 - Breach of Trafficking & Exploitation Order	1	2	0	1	3
Total	60	101	210	87	114

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 13/1/2022.

1. The data was extracted using the crime's raised date and by using SGJD codes 101110, 101111 and 503923.