| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-2603  Responded to: 07 November 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

How many arrests occurred between 19/09/24 and 21/09/24 in Ayr?

Do you collect data for arrests made at Ayr Racecourse? If so, can you share the past 5 years' arrest figures?  
Please be advised that Police in Scotland have the power to arrest an individual where there is sufficient evidence to support a charge against them - either for a common law offence or for a statutory offence where the statute empowers the police to arrest any person contravening its provisions.

There is however no mandatory recording process in relation to arrests as not all offenders are routinely arrested when they commit offences and some may be subject of a report to the Procurator Fiscal without ever having been arrested.

As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 I can confirm that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

By way of assistance, I have listed below contact details for the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscals Service who may be able to assist you in this matter:

Crown Office, 25 Chambers Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1LA or via <http://www.copfs.gov.uk/>

How many police officers were deployed to Ayr Racecourse for the Ayr Gold Cup Festival this year (19/09/24 - 21/09/24)?

This information is considered to be exempt in terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (the Act). Section 16 of the Act requires Police Scotland to provide you with a notice which:

(a) states that it holds the information,

(b) states that it is claiming an exemption,

(c) specifies the exemption in question and

(d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

Where information is considered to be exempt, this letter serves as a Refusal Notice that information is held and an explanation of the appropriate exemption is provided.

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

The information requested is exempt, as its disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice substantially the prevention or detection of crime and apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

Release of the numbers of officers on duty and the resources utilised for this event could adversely impact on the operational effectiveness of the Service in policing such similar events. Being aware of the numbers of officers on duty and the resources utilised would allow persons or groups intent on committing offences or causing disorder with the means to make a reasonable assessment of police tactics at similar events in the future and thus to make an assessment of the capacity of the Service to deal with such eventualities. Disclosure of this information would compromise any tactical advantage the police may have over such persons or groups when dealing with any crime or disorder.

This is a non-absolute exemption and requires the application of the Public Interest Test.

**Section 39 (1) Health, Safety and the Environment**

The information requested is exempt as its disclosure would or would be likely to endanger the physical health or safety of an individual. As previously described, to disclose the number of police officers deployed would allow those intent on committing crime or causing disorder to gauge the likelihood of detection or to take measures to negate the likelihood of detection. This would leave persons attending such events and members of the public at an increased risk of being the victim of crime and jeopardise wider community safety.

This is a non-absolute exemption and requires the application of the Public Interest Test.

**Public Interest Test**

The public interest factors favouring disclosure surround the release of accurate information into the public domain for the awareness of the public and accountability for the use of police resources. Those favouring retention of the information surround the efficiency of the police service when policing events such as this and public safety.

In this instance, the balance of the public interest test favours retention of the information requested as it cannot be in the greater public interest to compromise the efficiency of the service and public safety at such events.

## How much money does providing these police officers cost the force?

I can advise you that Police Scotland does not hold this information. In terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that information is not held.

By way of explanation, the nature of policing means that officers and staff are deployed to wherever their services are most required. The Division to which individual officers or staff belong meet the cost of their core time and so there is no requirement to maintain a record of the cost of any particular duty carried out.

## How many incidents of drug confiscations occurred at Ayr Racecourse in the past five years?

There were 16 incidents of drug possession in previous 5 years.

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.