| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 24-2256Responded to: 01 October 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Please supply the following information for each of the last three calendar years (1st January 2021 - 31st December 2021, 1st January 2022 - 31st December 2022 and 1st January 2023 - 31st December 2023):

## Q1) How many reports did your force receive of counterfeit money being used to pay for goods/services?

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.

By way of explanation there is no recording classification specific to counterfeit money being used to pay for goods/ services, therefore all potentially relevant incident and crime reports would have to be manually assessed for relevance.

In addition, as per the [Counterfeit currency SOP](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/isdawwzm/counterfeit-currency-sop-v4-00.doc), a crime report regarding counterfeit money being used to pay for goods/ services is only raised when circumstances clearly indicate that the person who tendered the counterfeit currency was aware of the forgery and therefore should be reported for a contravention of Section 15(1)(a) of the Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981.

## Q2) In relation to Q1, how many arrests were made?

The Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 removed the separate concepts of arrest and detention and replaced them with a power of arrest without warrant - where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting a person has committed, or is committing, an offence.

When a person is arrested, a statement of arrest should be read over as soon as reasonably practicable, and details recorded in the arresting officer’s notebook.

A person is ‘Not Officially Accused’ (a suspect) when arrested *and* *not* cautioned and charged. They are ‘Officially Accused’ once arrested *and* cautioned and charged.

If conveyed to a police station, the arrested person will have their details recorded in our National Custody System.

There are situations however whereby a person must be released from police custody prior to their arrival at a police station - effectively they are ‘de-arrested’ - where the reasonable grounds for suspicion no longer exist. In those circumstances, the details of an arrested person are not held electronically.

As a result, we are unfortunately unable to collate comprehensivearrest data, as case by case assessment of all officer notebooks would be required - in addition to the partialarrest data held in the National Custody System.

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

To be of assistance, Table 1 below shows the numbers of detected crimes under the Forgery and Counterfeiting Act for the period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2023 (inclusive) broken down by calendar year.

Please note that detected crimes are those where an accused has been identified and there exists a sufficiency of evidence under Scots Law to justify consideration of criminal proceedings.

Table 1

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Offence**  | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** |
| Currency offences | 184 | 80 | 65 |

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information.
Data was extracted from Police Scotland systems and are correct as at 20/09/2024.
Data was extracted using the crime's raised date

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.