| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2872  Responded to: 6 December 2023 |
| --- | --- |

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

## According to figures released by the Home Office, Police Scotland used the facial matching function on the Police National Database 14,136 occasions between the start of 2014 and April 2023.

## Please can you confirm how many of these searches of the PND correctly identified a suspect and led to an arrest? Can you please also confirm whether there were any instances of suspects being falsely identified following a search of the PND?

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

As you will be aware an individual’s right in terms of the legislation is to obtain information held by a public authority at the time a request is received and there is no obligation on them to create new information specifically for this request.

By way of explanation, information is not collated in the format requested and there is no easy way to extract this information from our recording systems.

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.