| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2075  Responded to: 25 September 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding.

## The total number of police officers currently serving in an 'acting sergeant' rank.

## For each acting sergeant:

## How long they have been in an 'acting' role.

## Their total length of service as a police officer.

## How long after completing their probationary period they were made an acting sergeant.

In order to fully answer your request, it has been necessary to respond in two parts - in relation to both short-term acting and long-term acting roles.

A short-term acting role is for period of 28 days or less, typically for short notice cover such as sickness or leave.

Associated data is not recorded on our SCOPE personnel management system as the officers are not formally placed into the Sergeant post on a temporary basis. Instead, each policing division manages the process locally, ensuring that payroll is aware etc.

In order to research your request in terms of short-term acting roles, we would therefore have to make enquiry with every force division individually, a process that I estimate would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 16(4) of the Act, as section 12(1) - Excessive Cost of Compliance - applies.

In relation to long-term acting roles, I can advise you that there 171 acting Sergeants, as at 31 August 2023.

Long-term acting roles are for periods of 29 days or more and for these, force policy is for the officer to be formally moved into the Sergeant post on a temporary posting for the duration of their Acting.

We are unfortunately unable to provide data regarding how long these individuals have been in an acting role and how long after their probationary period they were made an acting Sergeant.

By way of explanation, the only way to provide an accurate response to those parts of your request would be to individually examine each of the 177 personnel records - a process that I estimate would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 16(4) of the Act, as section 12(1) - Excessive Cost of Compliance - applies.

I can however provide you with the following information as regards their length of service:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Years Service** | **No. of Acting DS/ PS** |  | **Years Service** | **No. of Acting DS/ PS** |
| 2 | 1 |  | 15 | 5 |
| 3 | 1 |  | 16 | 8 |
| 4 | 1 |  | 17 | 7 |
| 5 | 6 |  | 18 | 8 |
| 6 | 2 |  | 19 | 9 |
| 7 | 6 |  | 20 | 4 |
| 8 | 14 |  | 21 | 5 |
| 9 | 16 |  | 22 | 4 |
| 10 | 10 |  | 23 | 2 |
| 11 | 14 |  | 24 | 1 |
| 12 | 10 |  | 25 | 1 |
| 13 | 15 |  | 27 | 2 |
| 14 | 19 |  |  |  |

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.