| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2857  Responded to: 6 December 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1. Please provide the number of digital devices currently awaiting examination by, or for, the force.

There are currently 4,394 digital devices awaiting forensic examination.

## 2. Please provide a breakdown of the above stating:

## a. What number are due to be examined internally by the force.

## b. What number are due to be examined by an external contractor.

Police Scotland do not outsource digital forensic examinations. All 4,394 devices will be examined internally.

## 3. Please provide the average number of days it is currently taking, for a digital device to be examined.

## 4. Please provide a breakdown of the above stating:

a. The average number of days it is currently taking, for a device to be examined internally by the force.

## b. The average number of days it is currently taking, for a device to be examined by an external contractor.

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 stated above Police Scotland do not outsource digital forensic examinations, accordingly no information is held.

In relation to examinations completed internally, 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.

In this instance, informatiom is not collated in the format requested and due to how data is recorded we cannot provide an answer to this question. The nature and complexity of the different cases that devices are examined for, does impact the length of time a device can wait.

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.