| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-2115Responded to: 13 September 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Please could you provide the number of active duty police officers for each year from 2018 to date? Could this be broken down on a year-by-year basis?**

Please be advised that statistics regarding police officer numbers are publicly available.

As such, in terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought. Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, 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.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at Section 25(1) of the Act - information otherwise accessible:

*“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under Section 1(1) is exempt information”*

The information you are seeking is available on the Police Scotland website via the following link:

[Police Scotland Officer Numbers - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/police-scotland-officer-numbers/)

**Please could you also provide the number of officers who have retired from Police Scotland from 2018 to date - also broken down on a year-by-year basis?**

In response to this question, the data presented has been extracted from Police Scotland’s System to Co-ordination Personnel and Establishment (SCOPE) database.

The leaving reasons include Retirement - 25-30 years, Medical and Pension.

Please note that due to the introduction of the 2015 Pension Remedy the numbers of those retiring with less than 30 years’ service in 2022 are inflated.

2018 607

2019 684

2020 532

2021 592

2022 1201

2023 - 31st July 2023 357

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.