| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-0351  Responded to: xx February 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1) How many traffic stops were made each year from 2015 to 2023 on suspicion of drunk or drugged driving?

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process this part of your request.

I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

## To explain, not all traffic stops on suspicion of drunk or drugged driving in the requested period will result in an incident or crime being recorded so all police notebooks records would need to be manually checked.​

## 2) How many roadside drug driving tests your officers performed each year from 2015 to present.

This legislation went live on 21/10/2019 and as such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek for any earlier period is not held by Police Scotland.

The information provided in table 1 is in respect of tests undertaken by road policing officers only. I am unable to provide this data for local policing for the reasons described at Q1 above.

Table 1: Roads Policing - Drug Wipe data by calendar year

| **Year** | **Number of Drug Wipes** |
| --- | --- |
| 2019\* | 906 |
| 2020 | 5497 |
| 2021 | 4938 |
| 2022 | 4562 |
| 2023 | 5208 |
| 2024\*\* | 569 |

\* This legislation went live on 21/10/2019 and the 2019 year data reflects this.

\*\* The 2024 data is from 01/01/2024 to 05/02/2024 incl.

## 3) How many of those tests (per year) were positive

Please be advised that recorded and detected crime statistics 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: [How we are performing - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/) – group 7 (Drink, drug driving offences etc.) and for data prior to 2018: [statistics.gov.scot: Recorded Crimes and Offences](https://statistics.gov.scot/resource?uri=http://statistics.gov.scot/data/recorded-crime)

## 4) How many of those tests (per year) led to a prosecution

In terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

You may wish to contact the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscals Service (COPFS) which holds conviction information for Scotland. A request can be submitted to COPFS via email using the following address foi@copfs.gsi.gov.uk

## 5) How many roadside breathalyser tests have your officers performed each year from 2015 to present

Road Policing do not hold data for the period from 01/01/2015 to 04/06/2018.

The information provided in table 2 is in respect of tests undertaken by road policing officers from 05/06/2018 only. This is recorded by financial year and provided accordingly.

I am unable to provide any previous this data for any other period or from local policing for the reasons described at Q1 above.

Table 2: Roads Policing – Roadside breath tests by financial year

| **Year** | **Number of Roadside Breath Tests** |
| --- | --- |
| \*05/06/2018 - 31/03/2019 | 15667 |
| 01/04/2019 - 31/03/2020 | 29706 |
| 01/04/2020 – 31/03/2021 | 14877 |
| 01/04/2021 – 31/03/2022 | 13019 |
| 01/04/2022 – 31/03/2023 | 15834 |
| 01/04/2023 – 31/ 01/2024 | 16071 |

\* Part year - the 2018 data is from 05/06/2018

## 6) How many of those tests (per year) were positive

Please refer to the response at Q3

## 7) How many of those tests (per year) led to a prosecution

Please refer to the response at Q4

## 8) How many dedicated traffic officers does your police force employ now, and how many did it employ in 2015 and 2010.

In terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that part of the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

## To explain, we no longer hold the relevant records prior to 2014 which would allow us to capture all of the requested date range.

## Nonetheless the information below is provided as an alternative:

Table 3: Number of police officers based in divisional road policing unit, trunk road policing and road patrols.

| **Date** | **Headcount** | **FTE** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 31/12/2023 | 491 | 489.03 |
| 31/03/2015 | 563 | 559.964 |
| 31/03/2014 | 565 | 559.887 |

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.