| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2759  Responded to: 17th November 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Recent news articles have highlighted the increasing role of police officers as the “first line of response” for mental health related incidents, especially given the strain on NHS and ambulance services. I am particularly interested in understanding the impact of these changes in the Isle of Bute, or if data specific to the Isle of Bute is not available, the most narrowed down area dataset available for Argyll and Bute.**

**To gain a comprehensive understanding and to observe any trends, I would like to request data spanning the most recent three years. Specifically, I would like to request the following information:**

**1. ​The number of times police officers in the Isle of Bute (or the most narrowed down area dataset available for Argyll and Bute) have transported individuals to the hospital for each of the past three years.**

In response to your request, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

By way of explanation, there is no straightforward method to extract the information you require. In order to provide you with the necessary data, each recorded police incident for the time period specified would need to be manually examined to determine if officers had had to convey any medical case to hospital. I can advise that in a single week there are many hundreds of police incidents, even with a significantly conservative estimate of 3 minutes per record this would greatly exceed the cost threshold set out within the Act.

**2. The total number of officer hours spent on transporting individuals to the hospital in the said area for each of the past three years.**

**3. The percentage of total officer time that was spent on transporting individuals to the hospital in the said area for each of the past three years.**

**6. How much officer time was spent on calls or interventions related to individuals in crisis due to vulnerability or mental ill health for each of the past three years?**

In relation to questions 2, 3 and 6 of your request, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information requested is not held by Police Scotland.

By way of explanation, the nature of policing means that officers and staff are deployed to wherever their services are most required. The Division to which individual officers or staff belong meet the cost of their core time and so there is no requirement to maintain a record of the cost of any particular duty carried out. Therefore, I can advise this information in not recorded in the format requested.

**4. The number of ‘mental health related’ incidents officers in the said area responded to for each of the past three years.**

Please find the information requested in the table below. I would ask you to note the caveats provided below.

Title: Recorded Mental Health Related Storm Incidents (Disposal Code), Police Beats 'LB53' & 'LB54', Argyll and West Dunbartonshire Division

Period: 1st January 2020 - 31st October 2023\* (Calendar Years)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Police Beat** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023\*** |
| LB53 | 27 | 33 | 49 | 32 |
| LB54 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 30 | 36 | 49 | 32 |

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 7th November 2023.

The data was extracted using the incident's raised date, by selecting the disposal code "PW-13" (Mental Health Related) and selecting for Police Beats 'LB53' and 'LB54'.

Out of Force and error incidents have been excluded.

**5. The number of crimes in the said area recorded as being ‘mental health related’ for each of the past three years.**

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

By way of explanation, we do not have a marker on crime reports to indicate whether they were mental health related.

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.