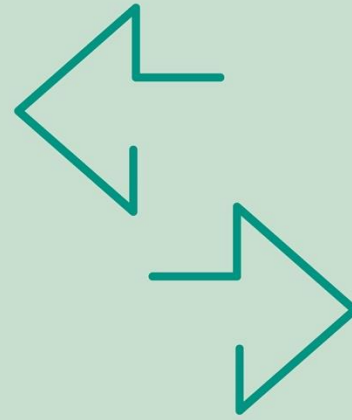


SPA Corporate FOI Annual Summary 2023 - 2024



SCOTTISH POLICE
AUTHORITY
ÙGH DARRAS POILIS NA H-ALBA

Context

- The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) gives everyone the right to access information held by Scottish public authorities.
- Any member of the public can submit a request for information, this includes media, researchers and staff. Some submit their request via the online platform [What Do They Know](#) (WDTK) which aims to make information available to all, reducing the need for multiple people to submit the same request, and acts as a permanent public archive of FOI requests and responses.
- FOISA requires authorities to respond to requests as promptly as possible and within 20 working days.
- The [Scottish Information Commissioner](#) (SIC) promotes and enforces Scotland's FOI law. [FOI statistics](#) are submitted to SIC on a quarterly basis.
- Quarterly reporting is provided to the Extended Leadership Team.
- SPA Corporate also coordinate FOI requests received for Forensic Services, liaising with FS colleagues as necessary. Liaison with Police Scotland is also required where information requested originated from Police Scotland.
- This summary refers to requests received from **April 2023 to March 2024**.





Summary 2023-24

120 requests received
(↑33 from 87 in 2022-23)

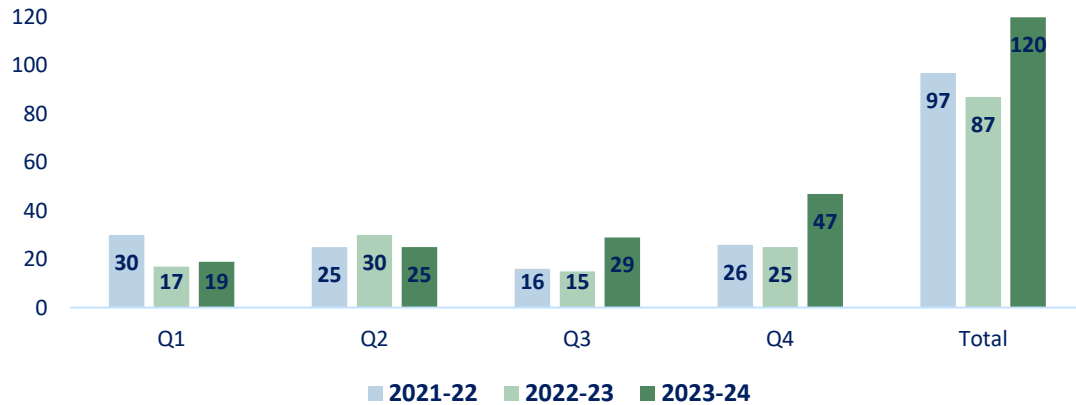
This included **two** requests
for review
(no change, as per 2022-23)

99% compliance with 20-day
statutory timescale to respond
(no change, as per 2022-23)

- 2023-24 saw a 38% increase in FOI requests received.
- One request for environmental information (EIR) was received.
- There was an increase in requests for operational / employer function and Forensics related information in 2023-2024.
- The number of requests for review received remained low at 2.
- The original decisions were upheld in both reviews. This suggests that original response decisions are robust.
- Compliance with the 20-day statutory timescale to respond remains high at **99%**, as per 2022-23.
- Non-compliance related to **one** response which required third party consultation.
- Compliance compares well with an average of 85%* compliance for authorities receiving between 100 – 150 requests.

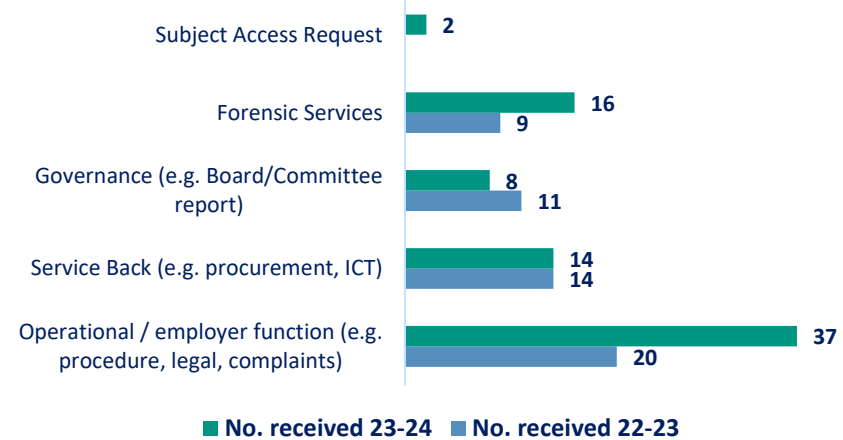
Requests received

Three-year trend data



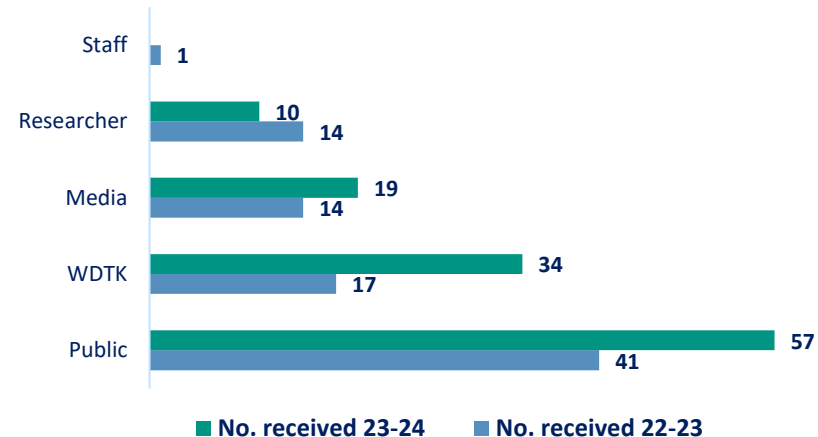
- **120** requests were received, an increase of 38% from 87 in 2022-23.
- This included **two** requests for review, as per 2022-23. The original decisions were upheld in both reviews.
- Of 120 requests received, **77** were 'relevant' requests for the SPA. 43 requests should have been directed to Police Scotland, for example those for crime statistics, operational matters and procedure.
- Q3 onwards saw a marked increase in the number of requests compared to the previous two years.

'Relevant' requests by category



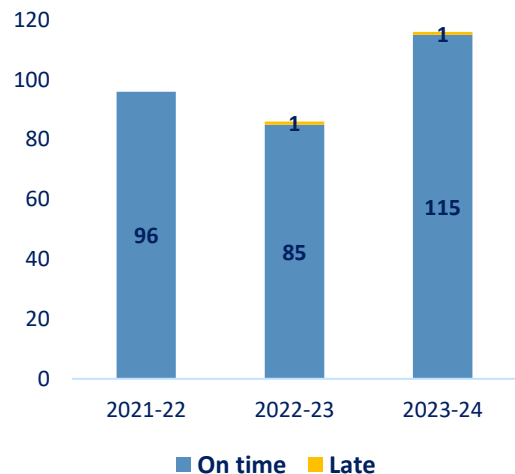
Requests for operational and Forensics related information increased in 2023-2024.

'Relevant' requests by applicant type



Applicant type is not always known. There was an increase in requests from all applicant types except researcher and staff.

Responses issued

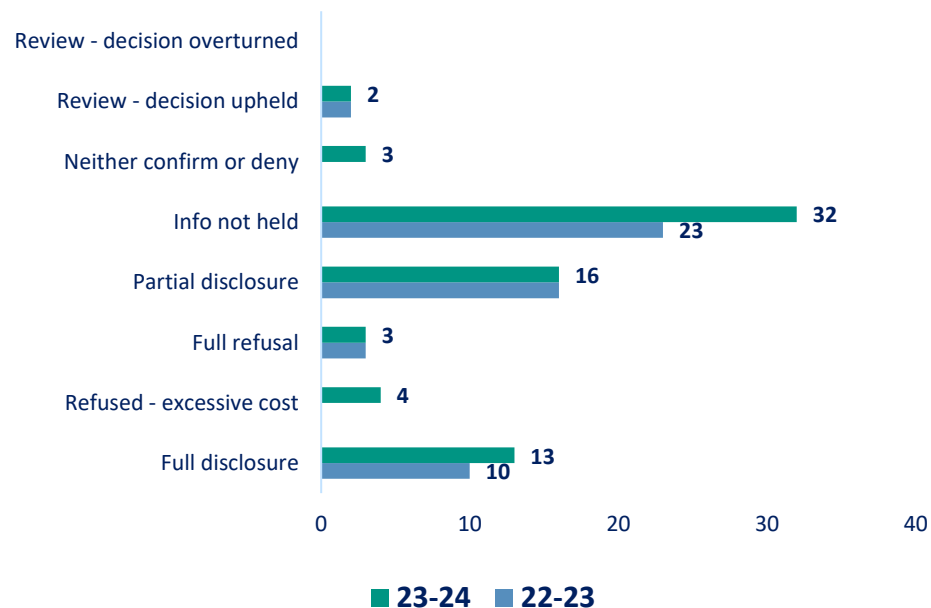


116 responses issued.

Four requests were closed. These were either withdrawn or clarification not provided.

99% compliance with 20-day statutory timescale, as per 2022-23. **One** partial response was issued within the required timescale with follow up 9 days after the statutory timescale. This was due to ongoing third-party consultation.

Response type for 'relevant' requests



Figures exclude responses issued to requests which should have been directed to Police Scotland and therefore no information was held (n=43).

The following observations can be made from 73 responses issued for 'relevant' requests.

As per 2022-23, the most common type of response was a S17 response, this means information is not held. **44%** of all responses confirmed information was not held (n=32). 44% of S17 responses related to information which falls under service back arrangements (n=14).

40% of responses provided all or some of the information requested (n=29).

10% of responses were refusals (n=7). These were:

- for the interview question set for the position of Chief Constable;
- for documents from an Exceptional Circumstances Committee considering a senior officer matter;
- for the Authority's complaints policy, process and timelines. Technically classed as a refusal, the requester was advised the information was already accessible on the website and links provided under our duty to assist; and
- four where it would cost over £600, or take over 40 hours, to provide the information.

4% of responses neither confirmed or denied information was held (n=3). All related to personal data of the requester or a third party.