



LETTER SENT BY E-MAIL ONLY

30 November 2022

2022-084

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

Request

Please find below our response to your correspondence dated 29 November, in which you made the following request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002:

I'm writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) to ask that you please disclose to me the amount of people arrested by your constabulary whose occupation was listed as journalist, reporter, correspondent, columnist, writer, or blogger - or however this is logged within your organisation at time of arrest - during any policing of protest action that your officers attended within the last three years 2020, 2021, 2022.

I do not need the names of those arrested, or their organisations, but I would like to include anyone taken into custody or who had equipment seized from them during these protests, be they covid, climate, women's rights, anti-military, far left/right, black lives matter or any other major relevant protest across this timeframe. This would include people who were ultimately released without charge subsequent to being arrested - a famous recent example would be Hertfordshire police arresting a journalist from LBC for covering the Just Stop Oil protests.

I'd also like to know the percentage of these instances in which further action either was or was not taken if possible.

Response

Your request for information has been considered and the Scottish Police Authority is able to provide the following:

The Authority does not hold the information you have requested. Therefore, this represents a notice in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - Information not held.

The Scottish Police Authority provides governance and oversight of policing in Scotland and does not hold information on operational policing matters including details of arrests made by Police Scotland.

Information may be available by contacting Police Scotland, as the constabulary responsible for policing across Scotland. Information on how to make a request to Police Scotland is available at –

[Freedom of Information - Police Scotland](#)

Right to Review

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been dealt with you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to foi@spa.police.uk or by post to Corporate Management Team, Scottish Police Authority, 1 Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1DZ.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision.

You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Scottish Police Authority Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.

