

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2021-1214
Date: 17 June 2021



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is summarised below together with the response.

I was looking to see if I could get some details via FOI from the Covid-19 reporting form: <https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/covid19/> to supplement the piece

I'm mainly interested in the number of forms filled out, how many for each area, how many were for each of the drop down categories (i.e. a business, a group of people, an individual or a fraud or scam) and how many forms were submitted for the group numbers (i.e. 2-6 people, 7-30 people, more than 30 people).

I can first advise you that the online reporting form was developed and designed specifically to allow members of the public to report ongoing breaches of COVID regulations in Scotland. Each form is reviewed and assessed by our service centres to identify what, if any, police response is required.

The form went live on the Police Scotland website on 2nd December 2020 and as of 19th May 2021 had been submitted on 28,507 occasions. Some category breakdowns became available as of 16th February 2021 and as such are included from that date.

Breakdown of all forms by date and type:

Date	Count of Subject
02/12/2020 - 08/12/2020	9
09/12/2020 - 15/12/2020	153
16/12/2020 - 22/12/2020	299
23/12/2020 - 29/12/2020	550
30/12/2020 - 05/01/2021	1721
06/01/2021 - 12/01/2021	2044
13/01/2021 - 19/01/2021	1918
20/01/2021 - 26/01/2021	1728
27/01/2021 - 02/02/2021	2039
03/02/2021 - 09/02/2021	1555
10/02/2021 - 16/02/2021	1399
17/02/2021 - 23/02/2021	1624

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24/02/2021 - 02/03/2021	1864
03/03/2021 - 09/03/2021	1701
10/03/2021 - 16/03/2021	1112
17/03/2021 - 23/03/2021	1856
24/03/2021 - 30/03/2021	969
31/03/2021 - 06/04/2021	1820
07/04/2021 - 13/04/2021	1043
14/04/2021 - 20/04/2021	784
21/04/2021 - 27/04/2021	656
28/04/2021 - 04/05/2021	637
05/05/2021 - 11/05/2021	460
12/05/2021 - 18/05/2021	566
Grand Total	28507

BUSINESSES	Weekly Total
16/02/2021 - 22/02/2021	141
23/02/2021 - 01/03/2021	129
02/03/2021 - 08/03/2021	138
09/03/2021 - 15/03/2021	101
16/03/2021 - 22/03/2021	102
23/03/2021 - 29/03/2021	87
30/03/2021 - 05/04/2021	108
06/04/2021 - 12/04/2021	99
13/04/2021 - 19/04/2021	56
20/04/2021 - 26/04/2021	59
27/04/2021 - 03/05/2021	94
04/05/2021 - 10/05/2021	45
11/05/2021 - 17/05/2021	61
18/05/2021 - 19/05/2021	2
Grand Total	1222

FRAUDS	Weekly Total
16/02/2021 - 22/02/2021	5
23/02/2021 - 01/03/2021	4
02/03/2021 - 08/03/2021	1
16/03/2021 - 22/03/2021	1
30/03/2021 - 05/04/2021	2
06/04/2021 - 12/04/2021	1
13/04/2021 - 19/04/2021	3
04/05/2021 - 10/05/2021	2
Grand Total	19

GROUPS OF PEOPLE	Weekly Total
16/02/2021 - 22/02/2021	1187
23/02/2021 - 01/03/2021	1539
02/03/2021 - 08/03/2021	1461

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09/03/2021 - 15/03/2021	872
16/03/2021 - 22/03/2021	1655
23/03/2021 - 29/03/2021	784
30/03/2021 - 05/04/2021	1547
06/04/2021 - 12/04/2021	885
13/04/2021 - 19/04/2021	693
20/04/2021 - 26/04/2021	583
27/04/2021 - 03/05/2021	517
04/05/2021 - 10/05/2021	378
11/05/2021 - 17/05/2021	488
18/05/2021 - 19/05/2021	15
Grand Total	12604

INDIVIDUALS	Grand Total
16/02/2021 - 22/02/2021	151
23/02/2021 - 01/03/2021	172
02/03/2021 - 08/03/2021	167
09/03/2021 - 15/03/2021	106
16/03/2021 - 22/03/2021	109
23/03/2021 - 29/03/2021	113
30/03/2021 - 05/04/2021	152
06/04/2021 - 12/04/2021	73
13/04/2021 - 19/04/2021	59
20/04/2021 - 26/04/2021	42
27/04/2021 - 03/05/2021	24
04/05/2021 - 10/05/2021	36
11/05/2021 - 17/05/2021	27
18/05/2021 - 19/05/2021	5
Grand Total	1236

I have gone on to consider your request for a further breakdown and must inform you that to provide an accurate response for statistical purposes would exceed the cost limitations of the Act.

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.

To explain, in order to provide a geographical breakdown, identify how many forms led to an incident being raised for action or to provide a breakdown of the sizes of groups reported would require a manual trawl of these forms which would far exceed the cost exemptions under FOI. Allowing for five minutes per form this would amount to over 2,375 hours of work and even then would still not guarantee to yield reliable data.

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If you require further assistance or are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, 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@scotland.pnn.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

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 Office of 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 Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.