



LETTER SENT BY EMAIL ONLY

25 February 2026

FOI Ref 2025/26-117

Request

Your request for information dated 5 February 2026 is copied below.

Under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am writing to request a detailed financial breakdown regarding the annual budget for Forensic Services in Scotland.

In a recent response from Police Scotland (Ref: FOI 25-0992), it was stated that budget information regarding forensic services is held by the Scottish Police Authority. To ensure consistency with the data already provided by Police Scotland, I request the annual budget figures for Forensic Services for each financial year from 2013/14 to the most recent available year (2024/25).

Please provide a breakdown of these figures including, but not limited to, the following categories:

1. Personnel/Employee Costs (including training and employer contributions).
2. Property and Facilities Costs.
3. ICT and Digital Forensics Infrastructure Costs.
4. Specialist Equipment and Laboratory Supplies.
5. Capital Expenditure (major projects or forensic technology upgrades).
6. Income or Third-Party Expenditure.

I would appreciate it if this data could be provided in an accessible format (such as an Excel spreadsheet or table) to allow for comparative analysis with the Police Scotland core budget.

Response

The Scottish Police Authority has considered your request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act (FOISA).

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Forensic Services budget information for 2013 to 2025 is detailed in the table on [page four](#) of this response. This includes the categories set out in your request and listed below.

1. Personnel / employee costs, including training and employer contributions).
2. Property and facilities costs.
3. ICT and Digital Forensics infrastructure costs.
4. Specialist equipment and laboratory supplies.
5. Capital expenditure, major projects or forensic technology upgrades).
6. Income or third-party expenditure.

No information is held where there is a zero figure in the table.¹

In terms of category three in your request, specifically digital forensics, we can advise that Police Scotland are responsible for cybercrime investigations and digital forensics.¹ Information may be available by contacting Police Scotland at foi@scotland.police.uk

We would also note that the Authority's Forensic Services Committee has ongoing financial oversight of the Forensic Services budget. Recent reporting to the [Forensic Services Committee on 5 February 2026](#) is linked here – [Forensic Services Financial Monitoring Report Q3](#).

Right to Review

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, you can ask for a review within 40 working days. You must specify the reason for your dissatisfaction and submit your request by email to foi@spa.police.uk or by letter to Scottish Police Authority, 2 Clyde Gateway, French Street, Glasgow, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied after review, you can appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months. You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@foi.scot or by letter to Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Commissioner's decision, you can appeal to the Court of Session, only if you think the law has not been applied correctly.

This response will be posted to our [Disclosure Log](#) after seven days.

¹ This represents a notice in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - Information not held.

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Yours faithfully

Scottish Police Authority

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Forensic Services budget by specified category from 2013-14 to 2024-25

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Category	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Police Officer	95,370	95,370	99,450	26,650	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Police Staff	20,029,930	20,537,050	21,963,060	22,438,680	22,654,400	24,157,990	26,860,650	28,912,197	31,096,651	35,032,679	39,463,707	39,215,847
Other Employee	155,160	279,180	5,620	103,650	103,600	77,110	77,110	109,480	108,240	137,880	108,270	157,430
Premises	50,610	74,550	37,440	43,000	55,200	43,200	43,200	97,910	99,840	175,150	83,760	76,000
Transport Related	407,805	486,710	419,360	311,990	415,000	311,960	260,720	279,250	209,860	228,040	234,910	193,570
Supplies & Services	3,521,195	3,642,460	2,993,643	3,775,660	3,732,400	3,020,610	3,060,610	3,603,210	3,934,390	4,457,280	3,874,550	3,699,700
Admin	234,550	202,300	423,250	280,020	182,300	161,010	161,010	184,320	168,680	159,680	137,960	102,550
ICT	483,770	534,200	438,420	653,350	597,100	646,010	646,010	653,670	647,030	664,570	538,670	593,050
Third Party Payments	7,450	86,840	147,250	227,000	336,500	2,398,270	1,205,270	443,500	377,770	1,103,550	810,000	758,500
Other	0	-214,000	-227,030	0	-101,400	0	0	0	0	-200,000	0	0
Fees & Charges	-245,940	-245,940	-74,850	-75,010	-82,000	-122,540	-122,540	-56,400	-10,500	-20,950	-11,500	-24,000
Other Income	-42,060	-42,060	-24,990	-24,990	-25,000	-27,320	-27,320	-24,000	-24,000	-3,000	-3,000	-15,000
Government Grant Funding	0	0	-208,740	0	0	0	0	0	0	-37,000	-93,350	-44,860
Capital Financing & Reserves	4,840	4,840	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	24,702,680	25,441,500	25,991,883	27,760,000	27,868,100	30,666,300	32,164,720	34,203,137	36,607,961	41,697,879	45,143,977	44,712,787