

LETTER SENT BY EMAIL ONLY

9 June 2025

FOI Ref 2025/26-019

Request

Your request for information dated 28 May 2025 is copied below.

I am writing to request the following information under Freedom of Information legislation.

1. The number of FTE employees who work in the Scottish Police Authority's internal legal team, including all lawyers, solicitors, etc. in a) Financial Year 2022/23, b) Financial Year 2023/24, and c) Financial Year 2024/25.
2. The total amount spent by the Scottish Police Authority on **internal** legal services, including the salaries of employees in the legal team, expenses, etc. in a) Financial Year 2022/23, b) Financial Year 2023/24, and c) Financial Year 2024/25.
3. The total amount spent by the Scottish Police Authority on **external** legal services in a) Financial Year 2022/23, b) Financial Year 2023/24, and c) Financial Year 2024/25.

Response

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

The Authority can confirm information is held. This is provided below in the format requested.

	FY 2022/23	FY 2023/24	FY 2024/25
No. of FTE internal legal team employees	3	3	3
Amount spent on internal legal services	£257,249	£274,287	£259,539
Amount spent on external legal services *	£98,856	£179,006	£68,195

* We would note that the figures for 'external legal services' are based on total expenditure from a specific legal budget. However, a significant proportion of expenditure from this budget, particularly for 2023/24, did not relate to the cost of instructing external legal advisers to represent the Authority in litigation. For example, the Authority is legally responsible for administering Police Appeals Tribunals, which hears appeals from police officers who have been dismissed or demoted, and is required to pay the fees of Tribunal members. The Authority is also required under legislation to pay certain expenses arising from misconduct proceedings.

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, 1 Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1DZ.

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.

Yours faithfully

Scottish Police Authority