

Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service

Serious and Organised Crime Division, Crown Office,
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Your ref:
Our ref: R002627/LRM

22 February 2012

Dear Sir

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST PAN AM 103 – POLICE INVESTIGATION NUMBER COUNT

Thank you for your request for information dated 14 February 2012 in which you ask if COPFS has any information or data on how many officers were devoted to the investigation of the bombing of Pan Am 103 in total.

We can confirm that this Department holds information in relation to your request. In order to assist us provide you with as detailed an answer as possible we also sought confirmation of the position from Dumfries and Galloway Police, the force that continues to lead on the investigation.

From the information held we can confirm that on 22 December 1988, the day following the disaster, 1029 police officers were on duty at Lockerbie and an average of 1,043 police personnel were involved on a daily basis during the first week of the operation together with approximately 1000 military personnel and personnel from other rescue/emergency services.

By week four, following the initial search and recovery phase the number of Police personnel involved was 109. Staffing remained fairly static with gradual but continual adjustments being made to reflect the requirements of the enquiry. By week 47 the number of Police personnel involved was 68.

Enquiries extended through 70 countries worldwide with staff from the team personally conducting enquiries in 23, with assistance from local officers in the respective country being visited.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been handled, you do have the right to ask us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please e-mail foi@copfs.gsi.gov.uk

The review will be undertaken by staff not involved in the original decision making process.

If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, please note that although generally under section 47(1) of FOISA there is a right of appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner, where the information requested is held by the Lord Advocate as head of the systems of criminal prosecution and investigation of deaths in Scotland, under section 48(c) no application can be made as respects a request for review made to the Lord Advocate. The information you have requested appears to fall into that category, although ultimately it would be for the Commissioner to decide whether that was the case should you refer the matter to him.

In circumstances where section 48(c) does not apply and the Commissioner accepts an appeal, should you subsequently wish to appeal against that decision, there is a right of appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

Yours faithfully

LINDSEY MILLER
Head of Serious & Organised Crime Division