

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2563
Date: 13 December 2022



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 replicated below together with the response.

- 1. The number of 999 and 111 calls regarding dog attacks made to your police force for divisions Argyll and West Dunbartonshire, Ayrshire, and Renfrewshire and Inverclyde .**
- For Q1, please break this information down by (calendar) year for the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022.

Having considered your request in terms of the Act, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

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.

By way of explanation, there is no specific category for this type of incident. The closest would be incidents recorded as 'animals'. To establish the circumstances would require each of these incident logs to be read. Therefore given that there would potentially be thousands of incidents this is an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

- 2. Can you tell me the criminal outcomes relating to a dog attack broken down by those same years?**
3. If possible, can you tell me the age of the victims of these attacks, also broken down by these same years.
4. If possible, can you detail the reported location of the 'attack' or the street the call was received.

In response to these questions, I have considered your request in terms of crimes where a dog has 'attacked' a person.

Police Scotland record crimes using the Scottish Government Justice Department crime classification codes. With regard to your request, offences such as these would be

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recorded as offences involving dangerous dogs. Therefore the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to manually examine each one of these crime reports since 2018 in the requested areas to establish whether the circumstances are relevant to your request. There are no relevant markers which allow the automatic retrieval of this level of information. Therefore Section 12 of the Act would again apply.

If crime statistics on recorded/detected dangerous dog offences would be of interest, bearing in mind that these offences will not be 'attacks' please submit a new request for information.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee at foidundee@scotland.police.uk quoting the reference number given.

If you 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.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.

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