| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1611  Responded to: 07 July 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I will change my questions to 'How many cases of cuckooing have you dealt with in the financial year of 2022-23?'

## You can keyword search and then go through cases relating to cuckooing manually.

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, crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the Scottish Government Justice Department [offence classification codes](https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/factsheet/2017/02/recorded-crime-scotland-classification-crimes-offences/documents/recorded-crime--scotland-classification-crimes-offences/recorded-crime--scotland-classification-crimes-offences/govscot%3Adocument/RCS-classification-crimes-offences.xlsx) and in this instance, I’m afraid there is no specific offence of “cuckooing”.

As such, any relevant offences/incidents would be recorded under a more general category and so case by case assessment would be required to determine the circumstances and identify any instances of “cuckooing”.

I can further explain with regard to keyword searches, that Police Scotland operates a number of crime recording systems. Whilst robust statistical analysis can be made of the data held on each of our systems, they are not, at present, designed to enable the retrieval of the highly specific information as per your request.

In this instance, it is not possible to carry out a force wide search for specific terms or keywords on our crime systems.

As such, as explained above the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to carry out case by case assessment of thousands of crime reports for the time period requested, to establish whether ‘cuckooing’ was mentioned and how it related to the offence.

You can access our published crime statistics via the following link: [How we are performing - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/)

If you require any further assistance please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.