| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-2214  Responded to: 24 July 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Please provide the following data held by your force for the period from 1 January 2022 to the present (or the most recent available date)**

**1a) The total number of stop and search incidents where the object of the search included offensive weapons**

**1b) The total number of stop and search incidents where the object of the search included offensive weapons and there was a suspected or alleged link to wildlife crime.**

The information sought is held by Police Scotland, but I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the section 25(1) exemption applies:

“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it […] is exempt information”.

The information sought is publicly available:

[Stop and Search Data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/stop-and-search/data-publication/)

**2. Of the incidents involving wildlife crime recorded on police intelligence recording systems in addition to crime recording systems, how many involved the possession, suspected possession, or use of catapults?**

**3. For the searches described in point 2, please provide a breakdown of:**

**The outcome of each search (e.g. no further action, arrest, charge, summons, caution).  
The number of subjects aged: 1.) Under 11 years old 2.) Between 11-18 years old.  
Whether there were any suspected links to other forms of antisocial behaviour.  
The specific offences alleged or identified (e.g. poaching, hunting with dogs, criminal damage to wildlife, etc.).**

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

By way of explanation, there is no search facility available which would allow us to automatically retrieve the relevant reports. The only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to individually review all wildlife crimes to establish whether a catapult was involved, details of the accused, whether detected, and whether linked to other offences. An exercise which would clearly exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

**4. If available, please provide any guidance, policy, or briefing documents used by your force regarding stop and search in the context of wildlife crime or catapult-related offences.**

The information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act applies. There is no guidance Stop and Search guidance in relation to wildlife or catapult related incidents specifically.

To be of assistance, you may be interested in our [Stop and Search Standard Operating Procedure](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/jbulaw2y/stop-and-search-sop.pdf) ​ and [Code of Practice on the use of stop and search](https://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00512924.pdf).

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](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) 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.