| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1018  Responded to: 2nd May 2023 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## The number sexual offences reported in your area for the years 2018, 2019, 2022 and 2023 where a taxi (black cab or hackney carriage) or private hire driver has been implicated as the offender - whether licensed or unlicensed - and where the reported offence took place in the suspect's vehicle.

## The Home Office category the offence was logged under - ie rape of a female over the age of 16.

## In each case, whether the suspect was a) a taxi driver b) a private hire driver other than an Uber c)A private hire driver operating for Uber

## The age and sex of a)the victim and b)the offender

## The outcome of each investigation - including whether the suspect was charged.

Having considered your request in terms of the above 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, the locus would be recorded as the street where the taxi was at the time of the offence, with no markers etc. to indicate that the offence occurred within the taxi itself.

Similarly, the crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no facility whereby the occupation of the accused/ suspect can be easily extracted, nor is it possible to carry out a search by occupation.

Additionally, it should be noted that ‘occupation’ of an individual is not a mandatory field on Police Scotland’s crime recording systems and may only be recorded where relevant.

The only possible way to provide an accurate response to your request, would be to carry out case by case assessment of all sexual offences, for the time period requested, to establish the circumstances.

As illustrated by our [published crime statistics](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/), this would involve individually examining thousands of crime reports - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

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.