| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2250  Responded to: 27 September 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Please could you confirm whether Police Scotland has received data or crime reports that are based on data from FaceWatch, the live facial recognition company?

## If so, please could you confirm the number of reports received, and the names and locations of the associated companies (e.g. shops, events or other Facewatch customers) that used it?

## I am interested in any reports submitted within the last 18 months.

Having considered this question 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 are no relevant markers which allow the automatic retrieval of this level of information. As such each and every crime report would have to be examined to establish whether third party facial recognition services is recorded as a production. Given the amount of reports, this is an exercise which would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

## If Police Scotland officials have received other types of information from the firm, for example, on the way the system operates or is implemented, or on liaison arrangements between the firm and Police Scotland, please also provide copies of the materials associated with these interactions. These may include emails, powerpoint presentations, Memoranda of Understanding, meeting notes or other reports.

I can advise you that Section 12 (1) of the act would again apply to this question. There are currently over 22,000 members of staff and associated email addresses, in addition to department email addresses and network locations throughout the force that would need to be examined.

You may be interested in other requests in relation to facial recognition technology, such as 23-0680 which are available on our disclosure log: [Disclosure Log - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/)

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.