| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-3358  Responded to: 14 October 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Please provide information held by Police Scotland relating to prescription fraud and the misuse or theft of prescription materials across Scotland.

**Specifically, I would like to know:**

## The total number of recorded incidents or investigations involving prescription fraud, forgery, falsification, or unlawful possession/use of prescription pads or stamps from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2024.

## A yearly breakdown (by calendar year) of these incidents.

## Where possible, please provide a breakdown by region or health board area (e.g. Dumfries & Galloway, Greater Glasgow & Clyde).

## How many of these cases involved:

## Dental practices or dental professionals

## General medical practices or pharmacies

## Theft or loss of prescription pads from healthcare premises

## The number of prosecutions, warnings, or “No Proceedings” outcomes relating to prescription fraud in the same period.

## Any available information on common patterns or methods of prescription fraud identified in Police Scotland or NHS Counter Fraud investigations (for example, theft of pads, signature forgery, or administrative access misuse).

## This request is for general statistical and contextual information to help clarify the extent of prescription fraud risks in healthcare environments in Scotland.

Crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with SGJD crime classification codes and not thereafter sub-categorised. Police Scotland have no specific offence which relates to circumstances outlined in request. The only way to collate this data in an accurate and concise manner would be to manually review all potentially relevant crimes for relevance.

This is clearly a considerably time-consuming exercise. As such, 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.

To be of assistance, data regarding Medicines Act 1968 recorded crimes is available online:

[Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/)

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.