

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1780
Date: 06 September 2022



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

1) For the calendar year 2021, please tell me how many incidents and crimes of animal abuse* you have recorded in which one of the following social media sites was named in the MO and/or the Investigation Summary Field

- Facebook
- Twitter
- TikTok
- Instagram
- YouTube

***By animal abuse, I'm referring to any of the following:**

Crime type	Home Office classification
Causing, permitting or failing to prevent unnecessary suffering of protected animal	97/01
Carrying out, permitting, causing to be carried out or failing to prevent prohibited procedure on a protected animal	97/02
Removing or causing or permitting or failing to prevent removal of dog's tail other than for medical treatment	97/03
Administration of poisons etc to a protected animal	97/04
Offences relating to animal fights	97/05
Intercourse with an animal by a male	88/3
Intercourse with an animal by a female	88/4
Possession of extreme pornographic images – person performing an act of intercourse or oral sex with an animal (dead or alive)	86/14

2) For each social media site, could you please give a sub-total of the number of times they were mentioned in the MO and/or Investigation Summary Field in an animal abuse incident or crime, broken down by Home Office Classification codes?

3) Finally, could you please provide me with copies of the MOs and/or Investigation Summary Fields (depending on what is available) for the ten most recent crimes and incidents identified in the search (excluding any that are subject to ongoing investigation)? Please redact any details that cannot be disclosed for privacy reasons, etc.

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In response to your request, I can advise you that Police Scotland record crimes using the Scottish Government Justice Department crime classification codes rather than Home Office classifications.

We have reviewed your request and there are none that are directly comparable for Scotland.

As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

You may wish to submit a request after reviewing the Scottish Crime Recording Standard document: [SCRS Crime Manual \(scotland.police.uk\)](https://www.scotland.police.uk/foi/foi-scotland-police-uk) - which contains a list of offences (from page 52).

You should however be aware that any social media element may well cost exempt any request due to the need for all relevant crime reports to be examined.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee at foidundee@scotland.police.uk quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to foi@scotland.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.

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