

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2021-2786
Date: 10 January 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.

How many incident summaries have included the below term between February 2018 to-date - UFO

First of all, I must stress that Police Scotland do not consider key word searches for specific words/ phrases to be an accurate means of analysis.

I must stress that there may be incidents of relevance to your request which do not include the specific phrase 'UFO'.

It would however be nigh on impossible to come up with a list of comprehensive search terms - hence why we would not recommend the approach - but to illustrate, incidents may say 'unidentified flying object', 'lights in the sky', 'an object in the sky', 'lights above their house', 'lights over the park' etc

Similarly, although the phrase appears in an incident log, it cannot be assumed on that basis that the incident was directly related to the subject matter of UFOs.

The search facility in use means that incidents will be included in search results where UFO is part of a word - and it has proven to be the case with your request that the vast majority of hits were for incidents where 'UFO' is part of an address - ie Beauford Ave etc - or part of a vehicle registration number or other similar code.

Our initial search therefore identified hundreds of potentially relevant incidents which contained 'UFO' in the summary.

Having filtered the list to remove the common address words, we have been able to read through the remaining incidents to assess them for relevance in terms of whether UFO is included in the context of being an abbreviation for unidentified flying object.

Having done so I can advise that there are 17 incidents which *could* be described as reports of alleged UFOs.

For clarity, I can advise that there are a further 22 incidents where UFO is included in the correct context - ie as an abbreviation of 'unidentified flying object' - but the incidents are not reporting alleged sightings. To illustrate, one example might be a concern report for an individual who repeatedly mentions UFOs more generally etc.

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Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee 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.pnn.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalrnarnock, 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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