| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1047  Responded to: 4th May 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## My request relates to the surge in GPS tracker stalking involved in coercive control cases.

## I would like to request the following information: Can you please provide me with the number of coercive control cases over the past ten years that were dealt with by your police force where GPS tracking was used as a form of coercive control? This could include social media trackers, AirTags, trackers on apps etc. Please provide the number of cases each year.

I must first of all advise you that The Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 criminalised psychological domestic abuse and coercive and controlling behaviour and came into force on the 1st April 2019.

As such, for the period prior to April 2019, Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 has been applied. This represents a notice that the information you seek, for this period, is not held by Police Scotland.

For the period from the 1st April 2019 to date, 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 crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no facility whereby this level of information can be easily extracted, nor automatically identified.

Case by case assessment of all relevant crime reports would have to be carried out to establish the circumstances of each and determine whether they were relevant to your request.

As illustrated by our [published statistics](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/), this would involve individually examining thousands of crime reports for the time period requested. To illustrate, for the 2021/22 period alone, 1,322 crime reports would have to be individually examined. As such, this is 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.