

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1309
Date: 06 July 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.

I am trying to find out if the increase in the number of dogs purchased during the pandemic has led to police forces having to spend more time and resources responding to incidents involving aggressive or dangerous dogs.

Please could I have the details for these four questions by calendar years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and for (part of) 2022.

Please can you tell me:

- **Q1: The numbers of dogs seized by your police force (dogs that are out of control, aggressive, have attacked someone or are considered dangerous) from 2017 to 2022?**

Having considered your request in 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, Police Scotland record crimes using the Scottish Government Justice Department crime classification codes. With regard to your request, offences such as these would be recorded as offences involving dangerous dogs. Therefore the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to manually examine each one of these crime reports since 2017 to establish whether the circumstances were relevant to the specifics of your request. There are no relevant markers which allow the automatic retrieval of this level of information.

If crime statistics on recorded/detected dangerous dog offences would be of interest, please submit a new request for information.

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- **Q2: How many dogs have been put down/destroyed in your force area from 2017 to 2022?**
- **Q3: How many suspected banned breeds of dogs have been seized by your force from 2017 to 2022?**
- **Q4: What is the annual cost to your force of kennels, veterinary treatment, and of putting down/destroying these dogs? (From 2017 to 2022).**

In response to these questions, I must advise you that Police Scotland does not hold statistics or information regarding the number of dogs seized/ destroyed or costs etc.

With regard to dog destruction, this is usually done on instruction from the Procurator Fiscal and as such would be information held by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service.

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.

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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