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Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2017
Date: 19th October 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 writing to you in the hope of obtaining hate crime statistics for Scotland. I have only been able to locate hate crime statistics by local authority from 2014 to 2020 from Scottish Government Website, but I require hate crimes data that is disaggregated at the municipality or electoral district/constituency level. It would be pretty helpful if these variables (year, municipalities, number of hate crimes) can be included in one dataset. I am also hoping to obtain disaggregated hate crimes data that goes from 2000 to 2022.

In relation to the period 01/01/2000 to 31/03/2014 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, our national public protection system the Interim Vulnerable Persons Database (iVPD) was introduced on 01/04/2014. Prior to this date, each of the territorial forces that went to make up Police Scotland had their own public protection systems. These vary in search capability as well as the information recorded and so the only way to obtain comparable figures would be to manually examine each record held for the period 01/01/2000 to 31/03/2014.

Whilst an exact number of records to check is not known, it is expected tens of thousands of records would need to be checked and that thousands of hours of work would be required to obtain the requested information.

Police Scotland have assessed that the £600 cost limit within the Act equates to 40 hours of work and so this part of your request would breach the cost threshold.

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In relation to the period 01/04/2014 to 31/08/2022 please find the information in the requested spreadsheet broken down by calendar year and Multi-Member Ward.

I would ask you to note the caveat sheet contained within the spreadsheet and would draw your particular attention to the following and that figures from previous years may not be complete and comparable with future years due to our records retention policy:

“Police Scotland does not retain any information for statistical purposes once a record has been weeded from iVPD. When a record is weeded, it is removed from the system, and there is no retention of data outside the weeding and retention policy. Please note, the weeding and retention policy states that if a person is recorded as “no concern / not applicable” then this will only be retained for 6 months.”

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management 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.