

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0094
Date: 27th 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.

1] The number of people, social media account holders or social media accounts contacted by the force and asked to remove a social media post or told that not removing a social media post could lead to further action, over the following periods:

- 1 January 2019 - 31 December 2019
- 1 January 2020 - 31 December 2020
- 1 January 2021 - 31 December 2021

2] The number of incidents referred to in [1] that were subject to further investigation by the force after the initial contact was made, over the following periods:

- 1 January 2019 - 31 December 2019
- 1 January 2020 - 31 December 2020
- 1 January 2021 - 31 December 2021

3] The number of incidents referred to in [1] that resulted in charges being brought

4] The number of requests made by the force to social media companies asking for a post or online material to be removed, or drawing attention to problematic content, over the following periods:

- 1 January 2019 - 31 December 2019
- 1 January 2020 - 31 December 2020
- 1 January 2021 - 31 December 2021

5] A breakdown of what companies or sites were contacted by the force as per question [4]

In response to these questions, 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.

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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, any such information would be recorded within the records of various incident and crime reports, and the crime and incident recording systems used by Police Scotland have no means to search on this basis.

The only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to individually examine every crime and incident report recorded, for the time period requested - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee on foidundee@scotland.pnn.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.pnn.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.