

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0120
Date: 09 February 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.

Following clarification with you, you advised that SRA should be interpreted as **Satanic Ritual Abuse**.

I) A full count only of false cases of SRA.

II) A full count only of cases of SRA presently being looked at.

III) A full count only of true cases of SRA.

Between 7/1/2021 - 9/1/2021

***False is to mean cases which have not been allocated a verdict of guilty by a court of Scottish criminal law but have been allocated a verdict of not-proven or not-guilty or have not been tried at all.**

***True is to mean cases which have been allocated a verdict of guilty by a court of Scottish criminal law and have been tried.**

In response to your request, 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, there is no crime classification that relates directly to Satanic Ritual Abuse. With no way to extract this specific data, all crimes from the time period requested would need to be examined. I can advise that for the date period required there were 3126 offences recorded. A conservative estimate is that it would take approximately 3 minutes to

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examine each record and determine whether it contained elements of Satanic Ritual Abuse. This would equate to an excess of 156 hours of work.

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.

In order to be of assistance, you may wish to narrow your request, either shortening the time period or identifying specific crimes types to be examined may enable further assessment to take place.

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.