| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-3069  Responded to: 19 December 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I'm looking to find out the number of sextortion cases that have been reported in Scotland over the past ten years through a Freedom of Information request please.

## I would like to have the figures for each year since 2013 broken down into each year and also each area of Scotland.

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.

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, crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the Scottish Government Justice Department  [crime classification codes](https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-crime-recording-standard-crime-recording-counting-rules/pages/13/) and there is no offence classification relevant to your request, unlike England and Wales.

As such, the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to carry out case by case assessment of all potentially relevant offences, such as Fraud, Threats and Extortion, Threatening/Disclosure of intimate image etc. to establish the circumstances of the crime and determine whether they were of relevance.

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 a vast number of crime reports - 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.