| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1631  Responded to: xx July 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, relating to investigations into cases of unaccompanied asylum seeking children that have gone missing.

For the purposes of this request, I rely on the Government definition of unaccompanied asylum seeking children […..]

1. Has your force investigated cases of unaccompanied asylum seeking children reported missing since 1 January 2022 up to the present date (21 June 2023). Please respond with a Yes or No  
2. How many cases of missing unaccompanied asylum seeking children has your force investigated since 1 January 2022 up to the present date (21 June 2023). Please provide a total figure.

Having considered these questions in terms of the above 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, the National Missing Persons Database has no search facility available which would allow for the automatic retrieval of “unaccompanied asylum-seeking children”.

The only possible way to provide you with an accurate response would be to carry out case by case assessment of all missing person reports of children and determine whether the circumstances of the child were relevant to your request.

This would involve individually examining a vast number of reports, which is an exercise that 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.