| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2605  Responded to: 25 October 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## My query is in relation to the seizure of dogs by police officers, and in particular the XL Bully breed.

## Could you tell me, in the years from 2020/21 to 2022/23, how many dog seizures have been made by Police Scotland officers, and what number of these were confirmed or considered to be the XL Bully breed, broken down by year.

## If any other information exists, such as the geographical area and reason for seizure, that too would be welcomed.

Having considered your request in terms of the 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, Police Scotland record crimes using the Scottish Government Justice Department [crime classification codes](https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-classification-crimes-offences/). With regard to your request, where there has been a seizure of a dog, these would likely be recorded under the classification of offences involving dangerous dogs. Therefore the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to manually examine each one of these crime reports since April 2020 to establish whether the circumstances were relevant to the specifics of your request. There are no relevant markers which allow the automatic retrieval of this level of information.

To be of assistance you can access our recorded and detected crime statistics for offences under the dangerous Dogs Act on our website: [Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/) – Group. 6

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.