| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1751  Responded to: 09 June 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I am kindly requesting, under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, the following anonymized crime incident data for the purpose of spatial analysis in my dissertation:**

**Requested data:**

* **Study Area: Aberdeen, Glasgow, and Edinburgh.**
* **Period: 2018 to the most recent available data (or the most recent 5-year period available).**
* **Crime Types: Please include major offense categories such as:**
  + **Burglary**
  + **Robbery**
  + **Vehicle Crime**
  + **Assault**
  + **Sexual Offences**
  + **Drug Offences**
  + **Theft**
  + **Anti-Social Behaviour**
* **Spatial Information:**
  + **Easting/Northing coordinates or Latitude/Longitude for each incident (to enable GIS analysis).**
* **Additional fields (if available):**
  + **Incident ID or Case Number (anonymized).**
  + **Date and Time of the Incident.**
  + **Administrative Area (Local Authority, Ward, or Data Zone code if available).**

The information sought is held by Police Scotland, but I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the following exemptions apply:

**Section 38(1)(b) - personal data**

Personal data is defined in Article 4 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as:

‘Information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person (“data subject”); an identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person’.

It is our view that the provision of the exact coordinates as to where crimes took place amounts to the personal data of the parties involved.

Section 38(2A) of the Act provides that personal data is exempt from disclosure where disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles set out at Article 5(1) of the GDPR which states that:

‘Personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject’.

Article 6 of the GDPR goes on to state that processing shall be lawful only if certain conditions are met. The only potentially applicable condition is Article 6(1)(f) which states:

‘Processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by the controller or by a third party, except where such interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject which require protection of personal data, in particular where the data subject is a child’.

Whilst I accept that you may have a legitimate interest with regards the disclosure of this information, disclosure of the exact coordinates as to where crimes took place would identify the parties involved.

Notwithstanding, I am further of the view that your interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subjects.

On that basis, it is considered that disclosure of the information sought would be unlawful.

**Section 34(1)(b) & Section 35(1)(a)&(b)**

The exemptions outlined at sections 34(1)(b) and 35(1)(a)&(b) of the Act also apply on the basis that any information held would be held for the purpose of an investigation, and disclosure would prejudice the law enforcement functions of the force.

To be of assistance, crime data by local authority multi member ward is available online - [Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/)

You may wish to contact our Academic Research team for further assistance - [Academic Research Collaboration Proposal: Expression of Interest - Police Scotland - Citizen Space](https://consult.scotland.police.uk/academic-research/df74ccea/)

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](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) 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.