| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1398  Responded to: 26th May 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Under the *Freedom of Information Act*, I would like to request the following information:

## How many “single punch” attacks have been recorded in Scotland over the past five years? Can you also break it down into single year periods.

## As a percentage, how many single punch attacks were recorded as a percentage of total incidences of violent crime over the past five years. Can you also break it down into single year periods.

In response to the two requests above, unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process them. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

By way of explanation, I can advise that it is *not* possible to carry out a search of violent crime reports based on the nature of assault being a “single punch”; there are no relevant markers available on the Police Scotland crime recording systems which would allow for the automatic retrieval of this level of information.

Therefore, the only way to provide an accurate response to your requests would be to manually review each individual crime report relating to an assault offence from January 1st, 2020, onwards to assess their relevancy to your specified type of assault. Unfortunately, given the volume of reports that would be required to be read through for that five-year period, this exercise 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](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.