| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1877  Responded to: 28th July 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## In recent months and years a number of people have come forward with allegations against the scouts for historic child sexual abuse claims.

## 1 - Please can you confirm the number of allegations received by the force in relation to sexual abuse claims against the scouts? Please limit your response to the number of cases received in the following calendar years: 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.

## 2 - Please can you also confirm how many of the allegations listed in the answer to question 1 led to either an arrest and/or a conviction?

Having considered your request 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 crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no facility which allows for us to carry out a search of sexual offences based on links to particular organisations. There is also no facility which allows for this level of information to be easily extracted.

The only way to establish whether a sexual offence had links to a particular organisation would be individually examine each and every crime report for all sexual offences recorded during the time period specified.

As illustrated by our [published statistics](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/), this would involve assessing tens of thousands 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.