

OFFICIAL

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1062
Date: 07 June 2022



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I'd like to make a request regarding the information on the number of reported dog attacks (dog attacking human beings) Police Scotland has received in West Dunbartonshire since 2017.

Specifically, I'd like to request the number of dog attacks on human beings broken down for each year.

If possible, would you be able to give me that information for each region of West Dunbartonshire? (six wards)

Finally, in each reported case please advise whether anybody was arrested and charged in relation to the dog attack and if the dog was traced on each occasion.

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. With regard to your request, offences such as these would be recorded as 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 2017 for the West Dunbartonshire council area to establish the circumstances and where relevant whether an individual was arrested/dog traced. There are no relevant markers which allow the automatic retrieval of this level of information.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee at foidundee@scotland.police.uk quoting the reference number given.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to foi@scotland.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalrnarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.

OFFICIAL