| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-0263  Responded to: 09 February 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## How many dogs were seized in each division in each of the past three years and how many of those were XL Bully Dogs?

Having considered this question, unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. 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, crimes involving dogs are recorded under Dangerous Dog crime classifications and as such, to establish whether a dog has been seized, all relevant crime reports would have to be individually examined.

To be of some assistance, recorded and detected crime statistics are publicly available on the Police Scotland website: [Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/) – Group 6 would be relevant to your request.

## Do Police Scotland officers require specific training to handle XL Bully Dogs and other large breeds?

All Police Scotland Dog Handlers receive training in dangerous dogs as part of their initial training course.

All handlers trained in the use of

* Animal Control Shield
* Catch Pole
* Dangerous Dog suit

And a general overview of how to approach and deal with Dangerous Dog’s. Additionally, the Operational Support Unit were provided a basic Power Point on how to deal with Dangerous Dog’s.

## Armed Policing are also trained in how to deal with dangerous dogs.

## There is no specific training regards XL Bully or large breeds

## If so, how many officers with the necessary training are available in each division?

| Command Area | Location | Total No of Handlers/Instructors  (PS + PC) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| West | Glasgow | 3 + 23 |
| East | Edinburgh | 1 + 11 |
| Larbert | 1 + 5 |
| Glenrothes | 0 + 7 |
| North | Dundee | 1 + 7 |
| Aberdeen | 1 + 7 |
| Inverness | 1 + 6 |
|  | Total | 8 + 66 |

## Does Police Scotland have plans to train additional officers to handle XL Bully Dogs and, if so, how many?

There are no current plans for an uplift to the establishment of dog handlers.

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.