

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0575
Date: 22 March 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.

Unnatural sexual offences recorded by police forces in Scotland, under the Freedom of Information Act.

By unnatural sexual offences I refer to:

- 1) intercourse with an animal by a male**
- 2) intercourse with an animal by a female**
- 3) sexual penetration of a corpses**

The wording of these crimes is taken from English and Welsh legislation. However I would like to know the number of crimes recorded for equivalent offences in Scotland.

Please could you tell me for the years 2016 through to 2021 (broken down by year):

- 1) how many offences of intercourse with an animal by a male and intercourse with an animal by a female were recorded. If Scotland does not have laws by this wording, please instead provide a count of all bestiality offences broken down by the sex of the suspect**
- 2) how many of the aforementioned bestiality offences resulted in a suspect being charged, broken down by sex of the suspect**
- 3) how many offences of sexual penetration of a corpse were recorded, broken down by sex of the suspect. If Scotland does not have a law by this wording, please instead provide a count of all necrophilia crimes**
- 4) how many of the aforementioned necrophilia crimes resulted in a suspect being charged, broken down by sex of the suspect**

Please could all of this data be broken down by police division, as well as by year.

Please be advised that crimes committed in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the Scottish Government Justice Department (SGJD) Offence Classification Codes.

The offence listed above in your request, relating to Necrophilia do not apply in Scotland. As such, and in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I must therefore advise you that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

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Please find below recorded and detected crimes for Bestiality for calendar years 01 January 2016 and 31 December 2021.

Recorded Bestiality Crimes, Broken By Police Division

Division	Crime	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
North East	Bestiality (from Apr 2011)	0	0	1	0	2	1
Tayside	Bestiality (from Apr 2011)	0	0	0	0	2	2
Highland and Islands	Bestiality (from Apr 2011)	0	0	1	0	0	1
Edinburgh	Bestiality (from Apr 2011)	3	0	0	0	0	0
Lothian and Borders	Bestiality (from Apr 2011)	0	1	0	0	0	2
Fife	Bestiality (from Apr 2011)	0	1	0	0	0	0
Ayrshire	Bestiality (from Apr 2011)	0	0	2	0	0	0
Lanarkshire	Bestiality (from Apr 2011)	0	0	1	0	0	0
Argyll and West Dunbartonshire	Bestiality (from Apr 2011)	0	0	1	0	0	0
Renfrewshire and Inverclyde	Bestiality (from Apr 2011)	0	0	0	0	1	0
Dumfries and Galloway	Bestiality (from Apr 2011)	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total		3	3	6	0	5	7

Detected Bestiality Crimes, Broken By Police Division

Division	Crime	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
North East	Bestiality (from Apr 2011)	0	0	0	1	2	1
Tayside	Bestiality (from Apr 2011)	0	0	0	0	2	2
Highland and Islands	Bestiality (from Apr 2011)	0	0	1	0	0	1
Edinburgh	Bestiality (from Apr 2011)	3	0	0	0	0	0
Lothian and Borders	Bestiality (from Apr 2011)	0	1	0	0	0	2
Ayrshire	Bestiality (from Apr 2011)	0	0	2	0	0	0
Total		3	1	3	1	4	6

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All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 10th March 2022.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee quoting the reference number given.

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.pnn.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, 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.

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