| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-0964Responded to: 28 April 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Please could someone provide the number of figures for under 17-year-olds charged with illegal drug offences in the last year in the Inverness (or/and both the Highland region).

## Could you also please include comparable figures for the last three years please (IE total number of charged for 2021, 2022 etc.)

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, the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to manually examine each and every misuse of drugs offence within the Highland council area to establish the age of the offender at the date of when the offence occurred - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

To illustrate our published crime statistics shows that as at Q4 of financial year 2021/22 there were 1,408 recorded misuse of drugs offences. You can access these statistics via the following link: [How we are performing - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/)

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 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 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.