

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1702  
Date: 26<sup>th</sup> August 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.

**I am trying to find out how many crimes have happened on TikTok/ because of TikTok. I would like to know the statistics going back 5 calendar years, as well as what types of crimes took place.**

- 1) In the 2021 calendar year how many crimes were logged by your force when the social media app TikTok was recorded as being an element in the offence?**

**Note: I would hope that this could be achieved by a computer search of crimes for the word/s 'TikTok' and 'Tik tok'.**

- 2) In the 2021 calendar year how many crimes were logged by your force where the social media app TikTok was the modus operandi for the offence?**

**Note: I would hope that this could be achieved by a computer search of crimes for the word/s 'TikTok' and 'Tik tok'.**

- 3) In reference to both questions 1 and 2, please provide me with the statistics for the calendar years going back to 2017.**

**Note: If going back 4 calendar years exceeds time or cost constraints, I would like the statistics for 3 calendar years, and so on.**

- 4) Please provide me with a table showing a breakdown of the crimes from question 1 - when the social media app TikTok was recorded as being an element in the offence.**

**Note: To avoid falling into an exemption I am content for the names, ages, geography or any other detail to be redacted to allow for the disclosure of the incident and how it relates to TikTok.**

- 5) Please provide me with a table showing a breakdown of the crimes from question 2 - when the social media app TikTok was the modus operandi for the offence.**

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**Note: To avoid falling into an exemption I am content for the names, ages, geography or any other detail to be redacted to allow for the disclosure of the incident and how it relates to TikTok.**

In response to these questions, 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 operates a number of crime recording systems. Whilst robust statistical analysis can be made of the data held on each of our systems, they are not, at present, designed to enable the retrieval of the highly specific information as per your request.

In this instance, it is not currently possible to conduct a force wide MO search of all crime reports, nor is it possible to search for specific terms or keywords on our systems

Notwithstanding, we do not consider keyword searches to be an accurate means of analysis. To explain, a word in a crime report could be used in a variety of contexts and even where these phrases were mentioned, it would simply be background information rather than a suggestion that they were in any way a factor.

As such, the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to individually examine each and every crime report for the time period requested.

This would involve case by case assessment of tens of thousands of crime reports, and so is an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

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.police.uk](mailto:foi@scotland.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](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

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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.

