| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 24-3057Responded to: 18 December 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## How many officers in your force have been disciplined for cruelty and/or neglect to animals in each of the last three years.

The formal conduct process for Police Officers is governed by[**The Police Service of Scotland (Conduct) Regulations 2014**](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2014/68/contents/made)**.**

The associated[**Scottish Government Guidance Document**](https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/factsheet/2018/04/conduct-and-performance-procedures-police-guidance/documents/police-guidance-conduct-procedures/police-guidance-conduct-procedures/govscot%3Adocument/Police%2BService%2Bof%2BScotland%2B%2528conduct%2529%2Bregulations%2B2014.pdf)further details the process and conduct cases are categorised in line with our[**Standards of Professional Behaviour**](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/who-we-are/our-standards-of-professional-behaviour/)**.**

Please note that misconduct allegations are assessed in relation to the ten Standards of Professional Behaviour, as detailed in Schedule 1 of The Police Service of Scotland (Conduct) Regulations 2014. Misconduct allegations are assessed and progressed with regards to the regulations only when the criminal process has concluded.

We have provided details in relation to the number of Police officers who have received formal or management action for conduct allegations concluded 01/04/2021 – 31/03/2024 inclusive and were linked to a criminal allegation within the following categories:

* Cruelty to animals (excluding dogs) including killing and maiming cattle
* Cruelty to dogs
* Cruelty to Wild Animals

*Table 1: Number of officers disciplined for cruelty and/or neglect to animals*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Number** |
| 2021/2022 | 0 |
| 2022/2023 | 0 |
| 2023/2024 | 1 |

Data is based on the year the enquiry was concluded.

## And can you please outline in what circumstances for each?

The one allegation identified was categorised as ‘Cruelty to Dogs’ which occurred whilst the officer was on duty.

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.