| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1222  Responded to: 3rd May 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## The purpose of this request is to obtain information in relation to dogs that attacked humans where the attack resulted in a human fatality. I am requesting information for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.

## 1. The year in which the attack took place

## 2. Was the dog(s) microchipped? If the answer to this question is no please go to question 4.

## 3. In relation to dogs that were microchipped please confirm

## a. If the chip had been recorded on a recognised database and the name of that database

## b. Was the name of the person who implanted the chip recorded on the database? For clarification I do not need to know the name of the person. I am asking the question to establish if you were able to identify who implanted the chip in the dog.

## c. If the chip had been registered to the breeder of the dog prior to sale. If the dog had been registered to the breeder was the breeder a licensed or unlicensed breeder?

## d. If the chip had been registered to the person who first purchased the dog

## e. If the chip was re-registered to another person (s). If there was any re-registering please give the date(s) on which the chip was re-registered. Re-registering means the dog was registered in the name of a new keeper/owner and does not refer to the same keeper/owner updating their details. Again, I am not asking for any personal information. The point of the question is to establish if a full record of the ownership/ transfer of ownership was kept and was up to date.

## f. Was the dog’s date of birth recorded, if so what age was the dog at the date of the attack.

## g. If the dog was imported and, if it was, where it was imported from

## h. The gender of the dog

## i. Was the dog’s colour recorded, if so what was it

## j. Was the dog’s breed or crossbreed type recorded, if so what was it

## 4. Following the attack was the dog(s)

## a. Shot by police at the scene

## b. Put to sleep by a veterinarian at the scene

## c. Removed to a third party location and put to sleep

## i. With the consent of the owner/keeper

## ii. By Order of the Court

## d. If the dog was not put to sleep what happened to it

## 5. Was the dog imported into the U.K? I am asking this question in addition to the question about importation at 3 above because the dog may not have been microchipped or the microchip might not have been correctly recorded as being registered to a U.K. database after importation. Potentially a dog imported illegally.

## 6. If a necropsy or other physical examination (before or after death) of the dog took place please provide me with a copy of the relevant report(s)/ paper(s). I appreciate it will be necessary to redact any report(s)/ paper(s). Alternatively, please provide a summary of the report to include (if recorded)

## a. Age of the dog

## b. Gender of the dog

## c. Breed, crossbreed or type of dog

## d. Weight of the dog

## e. Height of the dog

## f. Length of the dog

## g. If it’s ears had been cropped

## h. If it’s tail had been docked

## i. Any injuries that would be considered indicative of cruelty

## j. Any injuries that would be considered indicative of dog fighting

## k. The overall condition of the dog and any concerns it had been neglected and/or was malnourished

## l. Any evidence that drugs (veterinary or otherwise but not including drugs administered for euthanasia or treatment of the dog whilst in police custody) had been administered to the dog

## 7. If there has been a criminal conviction in relation to the incident please confirm

## a. The name of the person(s) convicted

## b. The offences convicted of

## c. The sentence handed down

In relation to question 1 – 6I, having considered your request in terms of the above Act, I regret to inform you that 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 crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no means of searching the relevant crime reports for dog attacks specifically, nor can we search based on whether a dog was destroyed, by their physical characteristics or micro chipping details. All crime reports would have to be individually examined to determine whether they were relevant to your request. This is an exercise that I estimate to far exceed the cost threshold set out within the Act.

Regarding question 7 a-c which refers to third party data, I am refusing to confirm or deny whether the personal information sought exists or is held by Police Scotland in terms of section 18 of the Act. Section 18 applies where the following two conditions are met:

* It would be contrary to the public interest to reveal whether the information is held.  
  Whilst we accept that you may have a particular personal interest in being informed as to whether the information sought is held, the overwhelming public interest lies in protecting individuals’ right to privacy and their expectation of confidence as regards their information.
* If the information was held, it would be exempt from disclosure. In this instance, sections 38(1)(b) and 38(1)(2A) of the Act apply insofar as you have requested *third party* personal data, the disclosure of which would contravene the data protection principles set out in the Act.

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.