| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-0223Responded to: 13th February 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## The amount of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children that have been reported missing to the force - by calendar year - between 1st January 2017- 31st December 2022.

## Please can you break it down by each year, whether the child returned and, if possible, separate the figures for male and female.

Having considered your request in terms of the above 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 National Missing Persons Database has no search facility available which would allow for the automatic retrieval of “unaccompanied asylum-seeking children”.

The only possible way to provide you with an accurate response would be to carry out case by case assessment of all missing person reports of children and determine whether the circumstances of the child were relevant to your request and also extract the other requested details.

This would involve individually examining a vast number of reports, which is an exercise that I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations

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.