

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0972
Date: 18th May 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.

Please may you provide me with:

A. Whether your police force records attacks as a separate offence

Crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the Scottish Government Justice Department offence classification codes and are not thereafter sub-categorised.

There are no offences relating to dog attacks. The dog related offences can be found in the Scottish Crime Recording Standard:-

[SCRS Crime Manual \(scotland.police.uk\)](https://www.scotland.police.uk/scrs)

B. The number of dog attacks recorded by your police force in each of the years from 2017 to 2021.

C. The number of arrests made in relation to dog attacks by your force in each of the years from 2017 to 2021.

D. How many dangerous dogs were seized by your force in each of the years from 2017 to 2021.

E. How many dogs were destroyed in your force area each of the years from 2017 to 2021.

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.

OFFICIAL

By way of explanation, we firstly would have to get a definition of 'attack' and then individually review all Dangerous Dog offences to determine relevance, and thereafter extract and note the detail of any relevant offences - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

To illustrate, the table below provides the number of recorded offences involving Dangerous Dogs from 1st January 2017 – 31st December 2020 alone:-

2017	2018	2019	2020
725	627	618	720

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 or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalrnarnock, 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 or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

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.