

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1284
Date: 28 June 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 wish to find out how many times armed officers have been dispatched to respond to reports of dangerous dogs over the last five years.

Please provide a number for each of the years below.

**2018
2019
2020
2021
2022 - to date**

If possible, please state a brief summary of the incident and what happened to the dog.

If possible, please state what breed of dog/s was involved.

If possible, please state the amount of money spent sending armed response teams to the incidents involving dangerous dogs.

Having considered your request in terms of the 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, each and every Armed Police operation and incident attended would have to be examined to establish whether they meet the criteria of your request. To illustrate, our Armed Police colleagues have attended over 2000 operations and as such this exercise would exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

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I can further advise you that to review all potentially relevant incidents where Armed Police have attended would also exceed the cost limit. There is no specific category of dangerous dog for recording incidents. These would most likely fall under the general classification of animals.

To be of assistance, I can advise you that no dangerous dog in the past 5 years has ever been despatched by an Armed Police officer. This would have been subject to a PIRC referral and recorded accordingly. You can review investigations by PIRC via the following web link: [Home | Police Investigations & Review Commissioner \(PIRC\)](#)

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee at foiundee@scotland.police.uk 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, 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 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.

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