| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-0629Responded to: 14 March 2025 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 regarding the closure of criminal investigations due to the death of the individual under investigation. Specifically, I would like to request the following:

## 1. The number of criminal investigations that have been closed due to the death of the person under investigation, broken down by year for the last five years.

## 2. A breakdown of how many of these cases involved individuals under investigation for a criminal offence at the time of their death.

## 3. If possible, a further breakdown by category of offence (e.g., violent offences, sexual offences, financial crimes, etc.).

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, there is no automatic way to extract the information you have requested. In order to accurately answer your questions, every crime report for the last 5 years would have to be manually reviewed to determine if it is relevant to your request.

Unlike England and Wales, Police Scotland do not use Home Office outcome classifications which include death of the suspect as a recordable outcome for a crime.

There are no equivalent procedures in Scotland.

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](https://www.foi.scot/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.