| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-1749Responded to: 21 July 2023 |
| --- | --- |

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

## a) The number of pet theft incidents reported to your force in each of the following financial years (2020/2021, 2021/2022 and 2022/2023);

## b) The number of those reports that resulted in a charge or summons, also broken down by financial year; and

## c) The number of those reports where the investigation was closed with no suspect identified, also broken down by financial year.

In response to your request, 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, there are no relevant markers available on Police Scotland incident or crime recording systems which allow the automatic retrieval of this level of information, and so it is not possible to search for reports based upon the type of property stolen.

As such, the only way to provide you with this information in an accurate and consistent manner would be to individually examine each and every report for all Theft offences, including all theft categories, such as Housebreaking etc. for the time period requested, to establish whether the property stolen was detailed as a pet such as dog or cat etc.

As illustrated by our published [crime statistics](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/), this would involve case by case assessment of thousands of crime reports, and as such this is an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the fee regulations 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 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.