| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0692  Responded to: 05 April 2023 |
| --- | --- |

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

**Between 10/3/2020 - 10/3/2023**

**Please supply a full statistical count and full disclosure of all complaints of a civil or criminal nature raised by any person or organisation against The Police Service of Scotland alleging anti-catholic sectarianism along with the outcome of each complaint as found by the force or a court of Scottish law.**

**Anti - Catholic Sectarianism is to include any anti - catholic hate incident, any anti - catholic act of prejudice and any anti - catholic hate crime.**

**Please also state how many criminal or civil complaints and the outcome of any such complaints concerning anti-catholic sectarian motivated arrests, charges, and false imprisonments received.**

In response to these questions I would refer you first of all to the Police Scotland [Complaints About the Police Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/fifhh5vo/complaints-about-the-police-sop.pdf) which outlines how we deal with complaints.

As you have been advised repeatedly in the past, we can only provide data on any of the complaint categories listed at appendices G and H - and you should note that they do not directly align to the terminology used in your request.

We do not designate complaints as ‘anti-catholic’ or ‘anti-catholic sectarianism’ specifically.

To be of assistance, a search of all allegations categorised as *discriminatory behaviour* with a sub-type of *faith* were reviewed.

That exercise identified one complaint that potentially matches the criteria set out in your request.

The complaint was not upheld and was concluded by means of explanation.

**I would request also any and all criminal or civil complaints with outcomes concerning incidences of police closing down Catholic prayer assemblies, Catholic Masses (including the seizure of the Holy Eucharist by the force), or the closing down of any Catholic Church during lock-down in pursuant to COVID or other legislation.**

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 Act where section 12(1) (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

By way of explanation, we can only provide data on the complaint categories listed at appendices G and H of the [Complaints Against the Police SOP](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/fifhh5vo/complaints-about-the-police-sop.pdf) - and you should note that they do not directly align to the terminology used in your request.

That means that all complaints would have to be individually reviewed for relevance - several thousand for the time period.

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](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) 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](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) 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.