| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1538  Responded to: 26th May 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information, please:

## i) The total number of cases of livestock theft reported in the calendar years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024.

## ii) The total number of livestock theft reported between 01.01.25 - 15.05.25

## iii) Of the above cases, please could you break it down by theft of sheep, cows, pigs, horses, chicken, donkey, goats. If this is not possible, alternatively could you provide the number of these theft cases where a keyword search of any of the key words 'sheep, cows, pigs, horses, chicken, donkey, goats' is included.

In response to the three requests above, unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process them. 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, I can advise that it is *not* possible to carry out a search of theft crime reports based on the nature of property stolen being ‘livestock’; there are no relevant markers available on the Police Scotland crime recording systems which would allow for the automatic retrieval of this level of information. Similarly, it is also *not* possible to conduct a keyword search of the body of a crime report for specific words/ phrases.

Therefore, the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to manually review each individual crime report relating to a Theft offence from January 1st, 2019, onwards to assess their relevancy under the scope of ‘livestock’. Unfortunately, given the volume of reports that would be required to be read through for that nearly seven-year period, this exercise would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

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](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) 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.