

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1605
Date: 16 August 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 am looking for the breakdown figures for complaints reported as 'downblousing' across Scotland.

Please can these complaints be broken down through regions and how it has been categorised (i.e. sexual assault, breach of peace) as a complaint.

I am looking for figures over the last five years from 2018 to 2022 under freedom of information legislation.

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, Police Scotland record crimes using the Scottish Government Justice Department crime classification codes. With regard to your request, offences such as these would be recorded under a number of different crime classifications depending on the circumstances. Therefore the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to manually examine each potentially relevant crime report since 2018 to establish whether 'downblousing' was a factor. There are no relevant markers which allow the automatic retrieval of this level of information.

You may be interested in our publish crime statistics: [How we are performing - Police Scotland](#)

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee at foidundee@scotland.police.uk quoting the reference number given.

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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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