| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-0153  Responded to: 01 February 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**As I’m sure you are aware, following the Pet Theft Taskforce Report in September 2021, the Government has challenged police forces throughout the United Kingdom to accurately record and provide data on incidents of pet theft. This need for information is likely to intensify further should the Pet Abduction Bill - due to have its second reading on 19th of this month - become law as is anticipated.**

**In order to build a picture of what is happening as regards cat theft across the UK, since 2015 I have been collating data from each police force which was used to help inform the Pet Theft Taskforce’s investigations. With a very few notable exceptions, most police forces have been very helpful and have consistently provided this information. I would therefore be grateful if you could complete my freedom of information request below:**

**1. What were the total number of cat theft crimes in 2023?**

**2. What was the outcome (charge/summons, community resolution, active investigation, evidential difficulties, no suspect identified) for each cat theft crime in 2023?**

**3. Please list specific cat breed types with amounts (stolen in 2023) — or ‘breed unrecorded’ or ‘mixed**

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.

To explain, we are unable to search thefts by type​​​. To provide the information you have requested, we would need to carry out a manual check of each theft to see if related to a cat and then to see if the breed was recorded.​

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.