| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1794  Responded to: 17th June 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1. Can you please provide me with the figures for the following incidents that have occurred in Edinburgh and the Lothians for the most recent full calendar year. Reported sexual assaults of all nature by private hire, minicab or black taxi drivers?

## 2. How these figures compare to the two previous years?

## 3. The number of these incidents which have led to prosecutions?

## 4. The number of these which have led to convictions?

## 5. How many of those incidents involved drivers who had undergone full security screening?

In response to these questions, unfortunately, I regret to inform you that I estimate 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.

By way of explanation, I can advise that there are no relevant markers available on the Police Scotland incident recording systems, nor is there a search facility available, which would allow for the automatic retrieval of this level of information from any relevant sexual assault reports – i.e. offender occupation (“private hire”, “minicab” or “black taxi” driver).

Therefore, the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to manually review each sexual assault report from January 1st, 2023, onwards to ascertain whether the perpetrator was a hired-vehicle driver. Unfortunately, given the volume of reports that would be required to be read through for that three-year period, this exercise would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

However, to be of assistance, I can advise you that information on *all* reported sexual assaults is publicly available on the Police Scotland website ([How we are performing - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/)). I can thus refer you to our crime statistics, which are available broken down by Multi-Member Ward areas (in this case, Edinburgh and the Lothians specifically), with the most recent figures due to be updated in the next few weeks:

[Crime data - Police Scotland​](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/" \t "_blank)

These statistics are categorised as either ‘recorded’ or ‘detected’; ‘detected’ crimes are those where an accused has been identified and there exists a sufficiency of evidence under Scots Law to justify consideration of criminal proceedings.

It is important to note that Police Scotland does not hold criminal conviction/ prosecution data – you may wish to contact the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) and/ or the Scottish Courts Service for this.

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.