| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-2400Responded to: 06 October 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I am requesting, via a Freedom of Information Request, figures of how many stray dogs were taken in by Police Scotland (Glasgow and Lanarkshire areas) in the past year and how many fines were issued for non-compliance with microchipping laws in the period since mandatory microchipping of dogs became law.

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, there is no central recording process for stray dogs. Incidents such as these may be recorded on our incident recording system, STORM, but would be classed as animal incidents. Therefore, each potentially relevant incident would have to be examined to establish the circumstance. A such this an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

With regard to microchipped non-compliance offences, crimes are recorded using the Scottish Government Justice Department crime classification codes. Again, there is no specific crime which covers this type of behaviour, and they would come under the general classification of ‘dogs, other offences’. Section 12(1) of the Act would therefore again apply due to the numbers involved [Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/) that would be required to be researched to determine whether the Microchipping of Dogs(Scotland) Regulations 2016 applied.

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 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 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.