| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1928  Responded to: 2nd July 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## The number of reported incidents in Edinburgh involving or referencing chemsex (the use of drugs such as GHB/GBL, mephedrone, or crystal methamphetamine during sex) that have been recorded by your police force in the past two calendar years (e.g. 2023 and 2024, or the most recent two years available).

## If possible, a breakdown of these incidents by:

## Type of offence or police involvement (e.g. drug-related offences, sexual offences, medical emergencies, safeguarding concerns)

## Age and gender of the individuals involved (if available and anonymised)

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 whilst incidents are categorised, there is no specific incident classification which directly relates to the type of activity outlined in your request: “chemsex”. 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 reports.

As such, this specified type of incident could be recorded under various incident categories depending on the circumstances – for example, either under ‘sexual offence’ or ‘drugs /substance misuse’ etc. Therefore, the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to manually review all relevantly categorised reports from January 1st, 2023, onwards case-by-case to assess their relevancy within the scope of “chemsex”. Unfortunately, given the volume of reports that would be required to be read through for that two-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.