| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 24-0089Responded to: 6 February 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I am writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act for information regarding cases of (alleged) sexual assault in pubs/nightclubs/bars in West Dunbartonshire.**

**Specifically, I would like the following information from January 1, 2020 – January 1, 2024, please:**

**The number of sexual assaults in pubs/nightclubs/bars reported to your force in West Dunbartonshire.**

**The names of each of the licensed premises where sexual assaults have been reported.**

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, the crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no facility whereby specific premises such as pubs/nightclubs/bars can be automatically identified, nor is it possible to carry out a search of the systems by premises type.

As such, the only way to establish whether a crime occurred within licensed premises would be to carry out case by case assessment of all crime reports relating to sexual offences for the time period requested – an exercise which I estimate 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 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.