

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1298
Date: 5th July 2022



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

Please could you provide an annual breakdown for each of the years 2019 - 2022 so far of the number of times police were required to break into a vehicle due to concern over an animal left inside?

For the same time frame, can you please provided the number of complaints made to the police about officers breaking into vehicles to liberate animals, as well as the amount of compensation paid (if any) each year to car owners following a break-in.

For the same time frame 2019-2022, can you please state the number of times members of the public broke into a vehicle due to concern over an animal left inside?

In response to these questions, 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, neither the incident recording nor complaint recording systems used by Police Scotland have searchable categories aligned to the situation described in your request.

As such, case by case assessment of each individual incident/ complaint file would have to be carried out to establish whether it was relevant to your request.

This would involve tens of thousands of reports and files that would require to be assessed which is an exercise that I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management Dundee, quoting the reference number given.

OFFICIAL

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions. Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to foi@scotland.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.