

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2385
Date: 29th November 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.

I am requesting data for 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22 on the number of the following incidents reported by staff in dental practices:

- **Assault with injury**
- **Assault without injury**
- **Assault (other forms)**
- **Stalking and harassment**
- **Other incidents of violence against the person**

In response to this question, 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 dentist practices can be automatically identified.

Nor is it possible to search on the occupation of an individual, as it is not a mandatory field on these systems, and there is no facility available which allows for the occupation to be easily extracted.

As such, case by case assessment of all violent offences would have to be carried out to establish whether the locus of the crime was at a dental practice and whether the complainant was a member of staff.

As illustrated by our [published crime statistics](#), this would involve individually examining thousands of crime reports for the time period requested - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

OFFICIAL

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

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.