| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2632  Responded to: 10 November 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## We are looking to gather information on the number and type incidents reported along the Union Canal towpath within the City of Edinburgh boundary in the last 5 years. We are reviewing issues arising along this area linked to speeding cyclists, feeling unsafe, and incidents.

In response to your request, 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 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 requested.

By way of explanation, when a call for Police assistance is received, the location data will be entered into the Police Scotland Command and Control database. The information is entered to identify a specific address for example 1 Main Street, with a specific town name or a generic location, for example, Main Street within a specific town. However, there is no generic function relating to rivers or canals as the distance of the waterway is so vast. As such, when providing location references for waterways a specific address is required, then further identifying location information is entered into a free text section.

The Analysis and Performance Unit have attempted to map the Union Canal towpath to provide you with the information you require. However, to provide an accurate response to your request many thousands of incidents at specific addresses would need to be manually assessed to identify if any free text was noted providing that the incident occurred along the canal towpath.

The canal towpath itself crosses 19 Police Scotland beats, across those beats for the time period specified I can advise that 197,806 incidents have been identified. Even with a conservative estimate of 5 minutes to assess each record, this would equate to an excess of 16,000 hours.

Police Scotland have assessed that the £600 cost limit within the Act equates to 40 hours of work and so this part of your request would breach the cost threshold.

Should you wish to significantly reduce the scope of your request, for example if you can identify a specific area of the canal towpath it may be the case that some data could be provided to you however it is worthy of note that the area may have to be so narrow that this would mitigate any meaningful comparative data.

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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) 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.