| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-1368Responded to: 14th June 2023 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## - How many cases have there been in the last five years in your policing area where people have been found dead in their homes where it is believed they have been undiscovered for more than two days? Please include the statistics for each year separately.

## - How many cases have there been in the last five years in your policing area where people have been found dead in their homes where it is believed they have been undiscovered for more than five days? Please include the statistics for each year separately.

## - How many cases have there been in the last five years in your policing area where people have been found dead in their homes where it is believed they have been undiscovered for more than ten days? Please include the statistics for each year separately.

Having considered your request in terms of the above 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, whilst incidents are categorised on Police Scotland’s incident recording system STORM, there is no facility available which would allow for the automatic retrieval of this level of information.

Case by case assessment of all incidents categorised as Sudden Death would have to be carried out to establish whether the locus was the individual’s home and extract details of the number of days.

There were over 10,000 [sudden death incidents](https://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/disclosure-log-2023/march/23-0646-incident-stats-sudden-death-2019-td/) recorded in 2022 alone, each of which would require to be individually examined. As such, this is 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.