| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0550  Responded to: 15 March 2023 |
| --- | --- |

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

## I request the following under HM Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act of 2002 respectively. Please provide a statistical count of and all information concerning, any complaints of breach of article 18 of the UN Declartion of Human Rights ''The Right to Freedom of Thought'' between 1/1/2020 - 1/1/2023 consecutively. Particularly in regards those detained, arrested, or charged by Police for allegedly ''Thinking'' to ones self.

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 Act where section 12(1) (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

We are unable to search complaints by the subject matter outlined in your request and it could, potentially, fall under almost any of our recording categories meaning that thousands of complaints would have to be individually reviewed for relevance.

The Police Scotland [Complaints About the Police Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/fifhh5vo/complaints-about-the-police-sop.pdf) outlines how we deal with complaints.

We can provide data on any of the complaint categories listed at appendices G and H but again, they do not directly align to the terminology used in your request.

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.