| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2610  Responded to: 25 October 2023 |
| --- | --- |

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

**1) The number of reported dog attacks (owner or person in charge allowing a dog to be dangerously out of control).**

**2) Provide the number of reported incidents in 2022 from January 1 to September 31, and the number of reported incidents in 2023 from January 1 to September 31.**

**3) For each time period, can you provide a breakdown on the breeds of dogs involved.**

Having considered these questions in terms of the 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, Police Scotland record crimes using the Scottish Government Justice Department [crime classification codes](https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-classification-crimes-offences/). With regard to your request, offences such as these would be recorded as offences involving dangerous dogs. Therefore the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to manually examine each one of these crime reports since 2022 to establish whether the information detailed is relevant to your request. There are no relevant markers which allow the automatic retrieval of this level of information.

In relation to incidents involving dogs, these would be classified as ‘animal’ and there is no offence for ‘attacks’ etc. specifically. Therefore given the volume of reports that would have to be read to establish relevancy for your request would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

To be of assistance, crime statistics on recorded/detected dangerous dog offences are available online: [Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/) – Group 6

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.