| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-2953  Responded to: 19 December 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Please provide me with any information that Police Scotland holds in relation to incidents involving people dressed in Santa Claus or Father Christmas costumes for 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

## This includes all reports made by members of the public or employees of Police Scotland mentioning "Santa Claus" and "Father Christmas".

## If possible, please conduct a keyword search and advise what types of crimes this may involve.

## I understand this might not be an accurate means of analysis, but any information you can retrieve from the STORM incident recording system might be helpful.

## If you can say how many incidents were recorded in each of the requested years, this would also be helpful.

I must stress that Police Scotland does not consider keyword searches for specific words/ phrases to be an accurate means of analysis. Please also note that there may be incidents of relevance to your request which do not include the specific phrases you have listed.

Similarly, although the phrase appears in an incident log, it cannot be assumed on that basis that the incident was directly related to the subject matter of an Individual dressed as Santa Claus or Father Christmas as per the context of your request.

For the reasons above, we would therefore take the view that the data below does not accurately reflect the prevalence of incidents involving individuals dressed as Santa Claus.

However, a keyword search for Recorded Storm Incidents, featuring selected Keywords Santa Claus and Father Christmas, brought back 167 incidents for the requested time period.

Upon a manual search of these incidents only 3 involved an individual/s dressed as Santa Claus or Father Christmas. These incidents are broken down by year of occurrence and incident type as follows:

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| Year of incident | Incident Type |
| 2021 | Theft |
| 2022 | Theft |
| 2023 | Assist Member of The Public |

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| All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 10/12/2024. |
| 1. Keyword search was carried out for 'SANTA CLAUSE' and 'FATHER CHRISTMAS' to identify the relevant records. |

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.