| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0663  Responded to: 21 March 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I am after information regarding the animal drug xylazine. In the US the drug is being maxed with opiods in the illegal drug trade.**

**I am curious to know if this is happening in Scotland. To that extent, I would like to know the number and volumes of xylazine which has been found illegally being used or in illegal possesion. Would it be possible to get the figures going back five years?**

**I would also like to know the locations where the crimes have been reported over the years too?**

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, Misuse of Drugs offences are not categorised by drug type and or class. Therefore the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to manually examine each and every relevant crime report to establish which controlled drug(s) are detailed in each case. You should also note that for the most recent periods, it will be likely that forensic testing will be ongoing.

To illustrate, for the financial year 2021/22, there were 23,747 Possession of Drugs crimes recorded and 3,206 of Supply of Drugs. As such given the volume of crimes this is an exercise which would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations. You can access Police Scotland’s crime statistics via the following link: [How we are performing - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/)

You may be interested in the Scottish Government’s data on drug seizures: [drug-seizures-and-offender-characteristics](https://www.gov.scot/collections/drug-seizures-and-offender-characteristics/)

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.