| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2582  Responded to: 26th October 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I am writing this email to request the following information based on reported dog attacks (on pets and people) recorded monthly from January 2018 to 2023 (today). I would like as much data that is available please. Here are some of the specific questions:

## 1. How many reported dogs attacks were on people (adult/child/infant)?

## 2. How many reported dog attacks were on pets (dog breed/cat/other)?

## 3. Which breed (or type) of dog was involved in the reported attacks?

## 4. Where did the attack take place (at home, on lead during a walk, off lead during walk, escaped from home etc)?

## 5. What injury did the attack lead to?

## 6. How many, if any, attacks led to police seizures of the dog?

## Two broader questions (if they can be answered) are:

## (a) How is a dog attack defined?

## (b) Would these reports include multiple reports?

## (c) Could the same dog be reported over a number of months?

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, there is no specific category which relates to dog attacks. Any such incident would be categorised as an ‘Animal’ incident and all of those incident reports would have to be individually examined to determine the circumstances. This would involve case by case assessment of thousands of incident reports - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

Similarly, the crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no means of searching crime reports for dog attacks specifically. Any such instance would be recorded under the Dangerous Dog crime classifications and as such, all crime reports would have to be individually examined to determine whether they were relevant to your request.

To be of some assistance, recorded and detected crime statistics are publicly available on the Police Scotland website:-

[Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/)

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.