| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-0233  Responded to: 02 February 2024 |
| --- | --- |

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

## 1) Please can I have the number of “dog fighting” incidents that have been reported to your force. Please can I have these broken down for calendar years 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-2023.

## 2) Please can I have the number of “dog fighting” incidents that have been investigated by your force under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. Please can I have these broken down for calendar years 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-2023.

## 4) Please can I have the number of dogs that have been seized by your force under section 8 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 for "dog fighting” or those being suspected of dog fighting. Of these, how many of the dogs were subsequently destroyed? Please can I have these broken down for calendar years 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-2023.

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

## To explain, there are no incident classifications that directly align to your request.  The closest would be 'animal' incidents of which there are thousands.

## To be of assistance, you may be interested in our published crime data which includes 'dogs bred for fighting' which encompasses sections 1 and 2 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 - [Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/).

## 

## 3) Please can I have the number of “dog fighting” incidents that have been successful prosecuted after investigations by your force under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. Please can I have these broken down for calendar years 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-2023.

The information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies. Police Scotland does not hold data regarding prosecutions, you may wish to contact COPFS for further information.

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.