| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2994  Responded to: xx December 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

I have slightly reordered the questions for ease;

## Q1. How many incidents of possession of illegal drugs have there been overall in your area per year? Please provide a figure for each year (i.e. 2023 so far, 2022 and 2021).

## Q4. Which road in your area saw the greatest number of incidents of “possession with intent to supply” and/or “supplying” (dealing or sharing) of illegal drugs? If data is unavailable by road, please provide by area or postcode. Please provide a figure for each year (i.e. 2023 so far, 2022 and 2021).

In response to Q1 and Q4 above, please be advised that crime statistics for Scotland, broken down by Multi-Member Wards (MMW) are publicly available.

As such, in terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought.

Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

(a) states that it holds the information,

(b) states that it is claiming an exemption,

(c) specifies the exemption in question and

(d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at Section 25(1) of the Act - information otherwise accessible:

*“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under Section 1(1) is exempt information”*

The information you are seeking is available on the Police Scotland website via the below link; [Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/)

For clarity, any lower level breakdown of the published data is assessed to have personal data implications and although our recording categories may not align exactly with the terms of your request, I trust that the available information will be useful.

## Q2. Please provide the data as per Q1 for incidents of possession of illegal cannabis specifically. Please provide a figure for each year (i.e. 2023 so far, 2022 and 2021).

## Q3: Please provide the data as per Q1 for incidents of possession of illegal synthetic cannabinoids (i.e. spice, K2) specifically. Please provide a figure for each year (i.e. 2023 so far, 2022 and 2021).

## Q5. Please provide the data above for illegal cannabis specifically. If you do not log this by drug name, please provide by Class A, B or C of drug or however else this information is recorded. Please provide a figure for each year (i.e. 2023 so far, 2022 and 2021).

In response to the remaining questions above, unfortunately I am unable to provide a comprehensivebreakdown of the data by drug type as the case by case assessment of thousands of relevant crime reports would be required.

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.

For clarity, please be advised that misuse of drugs offences are not sub-classified into substance type or grading class, therefore it would be unlikely that the information sought even for a brief time period or reduced geographical area would be available within cost.

For the reasons outlined above, Police Scotland instead, typically produce data based on recorded and detected crimes, broken down by Scottish Government Justice Department (SGJD) classification:

To be of some assistance, the link below may provide some information of interest:

[Drug seizures and offender characteristics statistics - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)](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.