| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0226  Responded to: 13th February 2023 |
| --- | --- |

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

## Could I please have the information sent back to me on email, as a year on year breakdown:

## 1) How many dog attacks have there been from January 20th 2018 to now?

## 2) What was the relationship between the victim and the dogs? (E.g. Pet, random dog attack, dog walker)

## 3) What injuries were sustained and what was the outcome? (E.g. Were victims hospitalised/died/sustained life-changing injuries)

## 4) What was the breed of dog involved in each attack?

## 5) What happened to the dogs following the attacks? (E.g. Were they rehomed/destroyed)

In response to these questions, 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 however, we can provide data on all Dangerous Dog offences if that would be of some interest - this will include more than what could be described as ‘attacks’.

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.