| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-2079  Responded to: 27 September 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## The number of reported incidents received by your police force from members of the public or your own officers that involve the following terms in their descriptions or classifications: Ghosts, Demons, Monsters, Paranormal phenomena, Supernatural entities, Poltergeists, Apparitions, UFO's, Aliens and other similar terms associated with paranormal or supernatural activity.

## The time period I am requesting covers the past five years, from August 2019 to August 2024

## For each relevant report, where possible, please include:

## The date of the report

## A brief description of the incident (redacted to remove personal identifying information)

## The location (e.g., city, town) but also in more detail such as train station (e.g. Kings Cross), hospital, police station, school, prison, church, forest, hotel, historic homes, lighthouse, theatre, mosque, library, museum, derelict buildings house, shop, airport, underground, factory, graveyard, morgue - of the reported incident.

## Any outcomes or actions taken in response to the report

## If the information is available in electronic format, I would prefer to receive it by email in an Excel spreadsheet format.

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 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 requested.

To explain, there is no relevant classification code which specifically relates to this subject matter.

It is not possible to conduct searches of our systems based on what a caller may have mentioned in their account, however we can base searches on the presence of a particular word(s)/ phrases in the notes taken by the call handler and input on to our incident recording system, STORM. As such, I have progressed your request on that basis, searching for the words and phrases included in your request.

I must stress that Police Scotland does not consider keyword searches for specific words/ phrases to be an accurate means of analysis. Please also note that there may be incidents of relevance to your request which do not include the specific phrases you have listed.

Similarly, although the phrase appears in an incident log, it cannot be assumed on that basis that the incident was directly related to the subject matter of Ghosts/UFOs/aliens etc. as per the context of your request.

In researching your request, keyword search was carried out for 'UFO', 'UAP', 'Light in the Sky', 'Aliens', 'Ghost', 'Demon', 'Paranormal', 'Supernatural', 'Poltergeist', 'Apparition' and 'Extra -Terrestrial' within the Incident Description to identify the relevant records.

The search facility in use means that incidents will be included in search results where UFO is part of a word, and this has proven to be the case with your request, as the vast majority of hits were for incidents where the letters are part of a name, address or other word. The letters also frequently appear as part of a vehicle registration number or other similar codes.

By way of further explanation, every incident over this 5 year period would need to be checked to identify this information. There are 1868 incidents for this time period and I estimate it would take approximately 5 minutes per incident to identify the information requested. This would therefore take approximately 155 hours and cost £2335. This task would therefore take well in excess of the 40 hour and £600 cost limit prescribed by the Scottish Ministers.

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.