| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2569  Responded to: 31 October 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

* **Dog attacks by year since 2015 including; non-reported breeds, suspected breeds and confirmed breeds.**
* **Dog seizures by year since 2015 including; non-reported breeds, suspected breeds and confirmed breeds.**
* **Reports/calls of dangerous dogs from the public that resulted in seizure / action by year since 2015 including; non-reported breeds, suspected breeds and confirmed breeds.**
* **Reports/calls of dangerous dogs from the public that did not result in seizure / action by year since 2015 including; non-reported breeds, suspected breeds and confirmed breeds.**
* **Confirmation that trained dog handlers attended any call out to dogs. If not, the reasons as to why and the result of the call out.**

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process this part of your request.

I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 16(4) of the Act, as section 12(1) - Excessive Cost of Compliance - applies.

To explain, ‘dog attacks’ could be recorded as an incident and/ or a crime.

In the case of incidents, we can only search the STORM command and control system by classification and the such incidents would be categorised as ‘animal’ incidents.

As I am sure you will appreciate, this is far wider than dangerous dog incidents, let alone attacks specifically, and case by case assessment of each incident would be required to ascertain and note the circumstances of each.

Similarly, with crimes, there is a classification for dangerous dog offences specifically but again, not all offences will relate to attacks.

The only way to research your request would be to read every crime report and note the detail accordingly.

Given the numbers involved, I’m afraid there is no way that the research could be completed within the £600 limit.

* **The number of trained dog handlers in your force.**

Police Scotland currently has 47 trained dog handlers.

Any reported incident involving a dog would be assessed on its own merits.

When calls come into Police Scotland they automatically go through a THRIVE assessment process and thereafter a suitable resource is sent.

If there are reports of a dog bite/ dangerous dog it is not always necessary or proportionate to send a dog handler.

Police Scotland also receive multiple calls regarding stray dogs - but again, the likelihood is this would be attended by a response officer and not a dog handler. However again, that would depend on the circumstances.

Trained dog handlers are on duty every day and they will respond to numerous incidents of various types and will prioritise their response based on threat risk and harm.

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.