| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-2281  Responded to: 09 September 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I am particularly interested in obtaining data regarding the number of complaints registered with Police Scotland by sub-postmasters against the Post Office, specifically pertaining to allegations of fraud or the need for assistance due to their interactions with the Post Office.

## To ensure clarity in my request, I would like the information to be broken down as follows:

## 1. Total Number of Complaints: The total number of complaints made by sub-postmasters against the Post Office that have been recorded by Police Scotland.

## 2. Nature of Complaints: A summary of the nature of the complaints, particularly those indicating that sub-postmasters have been defrauded by the Post Office or have required assistance due to issues arising from their role as sub-postmasters.

## 3. Time Frame: Please provide this information since 2005  to the present date).

## 4. Outcome of Complaints: If available, details regarding the outcomes of these complaints, such as whether they led to any investigations or legal actions.

Our interpretation of your request is that you are not seeking information about allegations against sub-postmasters, i.e., for theft/ fraud etc from their place of work, but that instead you are seeking information about criminal allegations made against the Post Office by its employees.    
​Either way, I am afraid we are unable to search crime reports based on the occupation or employer of the complainer/ accused at the time of the offence and in the absence of any specific crime classification that would narrow it down, the research involved is assessed to be extensive. Due to this 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.

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.