| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-3054  Responded to: 15 December 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Can I please request an ethnic breakdown of all suspects and victims of total crime in Scotland to the earliest possible starting point broken down annually (or totalled up all together if not applicable, happy to conform to any FOI time or budget limits in regard to this).

## Can I submit an additional request, not to be included with the first, of breaking down suspect and victim ethnicity by individual crime going back to the earliest possible starting point you have. This can be just done back to the past 3 or 4 years totalled up preferably.

Having considered these questions in terms of the Act, 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, the recording of ethnicity in crime reports is not mandatory and where this information is recorded there are no relevant markers which allow the automatic retrieval of this level of information. Therefore, the only way to provide an accurate response to your request each and every crime report would have to be read to establish the ethnicity of all accused and victims.

To illustrate, the numbers involved, Police Scotland publish recorded and detected crime statistics, which are available on our website: [How we are performing - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/)

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.