| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1825  Responded to: 15 August 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Data held by Police Scotland for the number of arrests made for the crime of livestock rustling between 1 Jan 2019 - 1 July 2024 (inclusive). Please break the data down by month and year.**

**Data held by Police Scotland for how many occasions livestock rustling has been reported to Police Scotland between 1 Jan 2019 - 1 July 2024 (inclusive). Please break the data down by month and year.**

Firstly, in relation to your request we have interpreted rustling to mean theft.

Unfortunately, however, 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.

By way of explanation, there are no relevant markers available on Police Scotland incident or crime recording systems which allow the automatic retrieval of this level of information, and so it is not possible to search for reports based upon the type of property stolen.

As such, the only way to provide you with this information in an accurate and consistent manner would be to individually examine all incidents and crime reports relating to Theft offences, for the time period requested, to establish whether livestock was stolen.

This is an exercise that would far exceed the cost threshold set out within the Act.

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.