| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-2700  Responded to: 30 October 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

1. **How many times has your force been called out to deal with a dangerous dog incident in 2024 (up until the 31st September), 2023, 2022, 2021 and 2020?**

The information sought is held by Police Scotland, but I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the section 25(1) and 27(1) exemptions apply:

“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it […] is exempt information”

Information from 2020 – quarter 1 of 2023-24 is publicly available:

[Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/) - Group 6 would be relevant to your request.

Information for quarter 2 of 2023-24 will be published at the same link within 12 weeks of this response.

“Information is exempt information if it is held with a view to its being published […] at a date not later than twelve weeks after […] the request for the information is made”.

I believe it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information be withheld from disclosure at this time and that maintaining the exemption outweighs any public interest in disclosure.

**2. How many times has your force been called out to deal with a dangerous dog incident, that was an XL Bully, since 1st February 2024?**

**3. How many dogs have been seized and destroyed by your force in 2024 (up until the 31st September), 2023, 2022, 2021 and 2020?**

**4. How many XL bullies have been seized and destroyed by your force since 1st February 2024?**

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.

To explain, we would have to individually review all dangerous dog crime reports for relevance.

We can however advise, once a dog has been seized, Police Scotland take no further part in its care.

Licensed kennels are based across Scotland and Police Scotland utilise the nearest kennel facility to where the dog has been seized.

Individual local authorities license the kennelling facilities that are used by Police Scotland for stray and dangerous dogs and therefore they are responsible for all aspects of the dog’s welfare and care.

**5. How much has it cost your force to seize and destroy dogs in 2024 (up until the 31st September), 2023, 2022, 2021 and 2020?**

**6. How much has it cost your force to destroy XL Bullies since the new laws came into force on 1st February 2024?**

The information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

By way of explanation, as noted above, once a dog has been seized, Police Scotland take no further part in its care.

We must also advise Police Scotland does not routinely record the costs or policing hours associated with any specific operation or investigation.

The nature of policing means that officers are deployed to wherever their services are most required and the number of officers required throughout an investigation will constantly fluctuate. Officers can be involved in one or multiple investigations and can be redeployed to other duties at any given time.

Additionally, officers will be drawn from different areas, based on their skill set and expertise, with the appropriate Division meeting the cost of their core time.

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.