| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-2019Responded to: 05 September 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## How many crimes have been reported in the last four calendar years

## (2020,2021,2022,2023 so far) have mentioned "e-bikes" or "electric bikes"? Please break this down by year.

Having considered these questions in terms of the above 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, Police Scotland operates a number of crime recording systems. Whilst robust statistical analysis can be made of the data held on each of our systems, they are not, at present, designed to enable the retrieval of the highly specific information as per your request.

In this instance, it is not possible to carry out a force wide search for specific terms or keywords on our crime systems.

As such, the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to carry out case by case assessment of thousands of crime reports for the time period requested, to establish whether electric or e-bike was mentioned and how it related to the offence - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

You can access our published crime statistics via the following link: [How we are performing - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/)

## How many accidents that the police have been called to in the last four calendar years (2020,2021,2022,2023 so far) have involved "e-bikes" or "electric bikes"? Please break this down by year and provide as much detail as possible about the nature of the incident

Electric or e-bikes are not a searchable vehicle type with our Road Traffic Collision (RTC) database however there is the option within that system to carry out a keyword search.

Whilst this cannot be guaranteed to be definitive, I can advise you that following a keyword search, a single collision involving an e-bike was identified.

To be of assistance I can provide the following table which shows Recorded Road Traffic Collisions, involving a Pedal Cycle or Electric Bike, broken on Collision Severity, 3rd July 2019 - 31st July 2023, Calendar Years:

| **Collision Severity** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Fatal | 11 | 10 | 2 | 7 |
| Serious | 252 | 199 | 187 | 75 |
| Slight | 352 | 309 | 295 | 104 |
| Total | 615 | 518 | 484 | 186 |

Unfortunately to identify whether any of these collisions involved an electric or e-bike would require case by case analysis which as explained above would exceed the cost threshold.

Please note, Road Traffic Collisions involving at least 1 x Pedal Cycle have been selected. Please also note, a Road Traffic Collision involving an 'unregistered electric bike' vehicle has also been selected, based on a selection from the free text variable 'Other Vehicle Type'.

Please note that a reportable collision is defined under Section 170 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and describes the legal responsibility on those drivers involved to report the matter to the police. Where those involved exchange personal details, there is no legal requirement to report a collision to the police and this applies particularly to non-injury collisions.

As such, there may have been other collisions within the location of your request, which were not reported to Police Scotland, nor which required a collision report to be created, and will therefore not be included within the statistics.

Note - the data is subject to change and will be updated on the next extract of data from CRaSH on 3rd September 2023.

You may be interested in our published Road traffic Collision data: [Road traffic collision data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/road-traffic-collision-data/) and the Scottish Governments reports: [Reported Road Casualties Scotland 2021 | Transport Scotland](https://www.transport.gov.scot/publication/reported-road-casualties-scotland-2021/)

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 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 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.