| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-2841  Responded to: 15 November 2024 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I am writing to request access to existing records for my dissertation research titled "Analysing the Impact of the Pandemic on Mental Health and Crime Among School-Aged Youths in the Scottish Highlands". My study aims to investigate trends in mental health referrals, school attendance, and youth crime rates over three key periods: pre-pandemic, during the pandemic, and post-pandemic.**

**I am particularly interested in quantitative data related to:**

**•Mental Health: CAMHS referral rates, emergency admissions, and mental health presentations among youths aged 10–18.**

**•Education: School attendance patterns and pastoral care records for the same age group.**

The information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies. Police Scotland do not hold information on Mental Health presentations and likewise with the Education section.

**•Crime: Youth crime rates, offence types, and age distributions within the Highland region.**

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 are unable to search crime reports for the information you are requesting meaning that all reports would need to be assessed to determine whether they relate to youth offending and to determine the age of the perpetrator which would cost well over the 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.