| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-2935  Responded to: 26 November 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I would like to request the following information concerning social media investigations carried out by your department. Specifically, I am requesting data on:**

**1.The number of social media posts investigated between 2019 and 2024 for alleged hate crimes. Please provide:**

**The total number of investigations.**

**A breakdown of the number of cases associated with each social media platform (e.g., X/Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc.).**

**A breakdown of the number for each year and month.**

**2.The number of social media posts investigated between between 2019 and 2024 for non-crime incidents (such as non-criminal hate incidents or other concerns not leading to criminal charges). Please include:**

**The total number of such investigations.**

**A breakdown by social media platform.**

**A breakdown of the number for each year and month.**

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, there are no markers to indicate that a crime took place online or had a social media element and the only way to determine this would be to review all crime reports for relevance - which I estimate 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.