| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2163  Responded to: 19th September 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## How many people have been charged with offences relating to throwing or misusing a pencil causing injury in Scotland in the past four years?

## And how many were charges involving a pencil were against adults?

## How many were charges involving children?

## Also how many police hours were spent on these cases?

Having considered your request 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, the crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no markers, or facility etc. which would allow for the automatic retrieval of this level of information.

Case by case assessment of all potentially relevant crime reports for offences such as Assault etc. would have to be carried out to establish whether a pencil was used.

As illustrated by our published statistics, this would involve individually examining thousands of crime reports for the time period requested – an exercised which I estimate

would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

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.