| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1958  Responded to: 16 August 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**1) How many charges for Murder were given in your forces area over the previous years stated below, starting from 2018**

**2023**

**2022**

**2021**

**2020**

**2019**

**2018**

**Please split this data up by the number of charges for each year. If this is not possible, could you please provide this information as a total over the previous years listed above. Please provide this information in spreadsheet format (CSV or XLS).**

**2) Within your forces area, could you provide a breakdown of the areas that have the most murder charges.**

**This does not need to be broken down by postcode, towns would be sufficient for this.**

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 for the period 2018 - 2023 is publicly available at [Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/). More recent data will be available at the same link within 12 weeks.

“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.

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.