| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-0377Responded to: 4 February 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**If I were just to ask for the number of dangerous dog crime classifications there have been in the last three years without asking for specifics is that possible?**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 from 2021 to quarter 1 of 2023-24 is publicly available:

[Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/) - Group 6 would be relevant to your request.

More recent information will be published at the same link within 12 weeks of this response.

“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.

 **Would it also be possible to find out how many of these dogs were put down due to dangerous dog crime incidents? Can this also be split by breed?**

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.

By way of explanation, Police Scotland do not keep statistics on the number of dogs destroyed. If a dog were to have been put down, it would only be mentioned within the crime report. Therefore the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to manually examine each one of these crime reports in the date range of your request to establish whether the circumstances were relevant to the specifics of your request. There are no relevant markers which allow the automatic retrieval of this level of information. Given the volume of reports this is an exercise which 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 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](https://www.foi.scot/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.