| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1855  Responded to: 15th August 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Since January 1 2020, please disclose the logs for every incident involving unidentified flying object/unidentified aerial phenomena recorded by your force.

## Also please disclose the logs that feature at least one of these search terms: 'UFO', 'Alien', 'UAP' and 'spaceship'

## For each incident log, please disclose:

## \* The date and time the incident was reported.

## \* The general location it was recorded (I.E. the city/town/village)

## \* The incident log, exactly as it was recorded by the force, redacting any identifiable information which may otherwise prohibit disclosure. For example 'Male caller named (REDACTED) reports seeing four flashing lights hovering above his property in (REDACTED) street before a female was beamed into the sky'.

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 incident recording system used by Police Scotland, STORM, has no incident classification etc. which would automatically identify incidents of this nature.

The only way we could approach your request would be by conducting a keyword search. A keyword search would be possible however, I would stress that Police Scotland does not consider keyword searches for specific words/phrases to be an accurate means of analysis.

We can provide you with data on how many incident logs contain any of the phrases listed within your request but we are unable to provide you with copies of the logs themselves as requested.

We estimate that there would be in excess of 500 reports for the period requested. Extracting all of those reports from the system in itself is time consuming and the redaction necessary would also be extensive.

If you would like data on how many incident logs contain the word ‘UFO’ etc. please let us know, however I would stress that the search facility in use means that incidents will be included in search results where UFO or UAP is part of a word or the letters are part of a name, address or other word. The letters also frequently appear as part of a vehicle registration number or other similar codes. Similarly, ‘Alien’ is frequently used in policing/ immigration terms and as such, not all incidents traced would be relevant to your request.

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.