| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2571  Responded to: 26th October 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 regarding the number of seizures of benzodiazepines ('street benzos') and associated arrests made within the City of Edinburgh by Police Scotland between the years 2017 and 2023. Specifically, I would like to obtain the following data for each year within the specified time frame:

## 1. The total quantity of benzodiazepines seized within the City of Edinburgh by Police Scotland each year.

## 2. A breakdown of the number of arrests made within the City of Edinburgh in connection with these benzodiazepine seizures for each year, including the following details for each arrest: a. Year of the arrest. b. Number of arrests made. c. Whether the arrested individuals were charged or cautioned.

## Additionally, please provide any other relevant data or information related to these seizures and arrests within the City of Edinburgh, including trends, locations, or any other statistics that may be available.

Having considered these questions in terms of the 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, Misuse of Drugs offences are not categorised by drug type and or class. Therefore the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to manually examine each and every relevant crime report to establish which controlled drug(s) are detailed in each case. You should also note that for the most recent periods, it will be likely that forensic testing will be ongoing.

As illustrated by our [published statistics](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/), this would involve individually assessing tens of thousands of crime reports for the time period requested - an exercise which would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

To be of some assistance, the Scottish Government website provides drug seizure statistics:-

[Drug seizures and offender characteristics statistics - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)](https://www.gov.scot/collections/drug-seizures-and-offender-characteristics/)

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.