| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2919  Responded to: 4th December 2023 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1. The number of criminal investigations involving dogs in the past 3 years. Can this data be presented annually and split up according to dog breed?

## 2. The number of crimes committed involving dogs in the past 3 years. Can this data be presented annually and split up according to dog breed?

## 3. The number of crimes committed involving dogs in the past 3 years. Can this data be presented annually and split up according to the type of offence?

In response to these questions, 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.

Whilst recorded and detected Dangerous Dog crime statistics are publicly available on our [website](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/), any other offences, such as theft of a dog etc. are recorded under more general classifications and cannot be searched on the basis that a dog was involved.

As such, the only way to provide an accurate response would be to individually examine thousands of crime reports to establish whether a dog was involved - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

Similarly, even for Dangerous Dog offences, establishing the breed of dog involved is only available by carrying out case by case research.

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.