| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-0563  Responded to: 21 March 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I would like to request the following information for each of the following time periods:

## January 2018 – December 2018

## January 2019 – December 2019

## January 2020 - December 2020

## January 2021 – December 2021

## January 2022 – December 2022

## January 2023– December 2023

## January 2024 – February 2024 (most recent available)

## What is the total number of incidents reported involving the misuse of drones per year?

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.

To explain, there is no specific marker to identify specifically the misuse of drones, to obtain the information you require we would need to manually assess each recorded incident which involves a drone to determine whether or not it was planned drone usage or misuse of drones.

To be of assistance, the table below provides the number of drone related incidents as identified by the final incident code type during the period requested.

Please also see caveats provided below table.

Number of drone related incidents recorded by final code from 2018 – 2024:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Division** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** |
| North East | 56 | 134 | 134 | 181 | 122 | 94 | 13 |
| Tayside | 64 | 109 | 95 | 155 | 170 | 152 | 31 |
| Highland and Islands | 32 | 109 | 114 | 360 | 270 | 249 | 22 |
| Forth Valley | 28 | 44 | 58 | 79 | 85 | 100 | 14 |
| Edinburgh | 55 | 117 | 129 | 272 | 254 | 245 | 50 |
| Lothian and Borders | 30 | 92 | 83 | 112 | 79 | 90 | 17 |
| Fife | 26 | 42 | 69 | 125 | 133 | 121 | 13 |
| Greater Glasgow | 86 | 174 | 931 | 646 | 323 | 274 | 42 |
| Ayrshire | 24 | 43 | 66 | 207 | 215 | 211 | 28 |
| Lanarkshire | 31 | 60 | 60 | 80 | 60 | 89 | 25 |
| Argyll and West Dunbartonshire | 25 | 65 | 58 | 121 | 173 | 141 | 9 |
| Renfrewshire and Inverclyde | 36 | 72 | 67 | 194 | 138 | 211 | 34 |
| Dumfries and Galloway | 12 | 7 | 17 | 29 | 19 | 17 | 0 |
| **Total** | **505** | **1068** | **1881** | **2561** | **2041** | **1994** | **298** |

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 12th March 2023.

1. The data was extracted using the incident's raised date and by selecting Final Incident Code - DRONE/UAS/UAV INCIDENT ('TR-15')

2. Error and transferred incidents have been removed.

3. Please note, Police Divisions started recorded TR-15 incidents from April 2018.

## How many incidents of drone misuse were reported to have been used for the purpose of crimes such as stalking, harassment, voyeurism per year?

In order for us to provide you with the figures requested, we would need to look through each case of stalking, harassment and voyeurism on an individual basis to determine whether or not a drone was used, therefore, 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.

## Are there any patterns identified in these incidents;

## a.     What is the nature of the harassment or stalking reported (e.g., surveillance, intimidation).

## b.     How many investigations were launched per year?

## c.     How many charges are filed per year?

In response to each of the points above, 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.

Similarly with the previous responses, to provide you with the information you are looking for we would need to manually look through each case to determine the nature of the report and how many investigations and charges were filed involving the misuse of drones.

## d.     How many convictions are obtained per year?

Police Scotland does not hold criminal conviction data and section 17 of the Act therefore applies. You may wish to contact the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) and/ or the Scottish Courts Service.

## Is there any guidance, policies, or initiatives implemented by your force to tackle the misuse of drones for stalking or harassment?

The information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies. To explain, there is no specific guidance, policy or initiatives in relation to the misuse of drones for stalking and harassment. To be of assistance, we do have a standing operating procedure for stalking and harassment, please see below link.

[Standard Operating Procedures P-S - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/policies-and-procedures/standard-operating-procedures/standard-operating-procedures-p-s/)

## Lastly we would be interested to know if you have an officer available for interview on the data you provide and whether or not it is possible to film with any victims and/or the police drone unit.

As you are aware, you have provided your consent and your information has been passed to the relevant department for further assistance.

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.