| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 24-1752Responded to: 12 August 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I would like to submit a Freedom of Information request to gather information about the physical and sexual assault crimes in Fife since the beginning of this year. This should include information about:**

* **How many of these crimes resulted in the culprits being caught?**

Crime data for the Fife area is publicly available: [Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/)

The data includes recorded and detected crime information - detected crimes are those where an accused has been identified and there exists a sufficiency of evidence under Scots Law to justify consideration of criminal proceedings.

The information is therefore 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) exemption applies:

“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it […] is exempt information”.

* **How many of the crimes were committed in areas that are considered to be popular, such as town centres, high streets, areas near public services, and local businesses, etc ?**
* **How many of the crimes were committed in areas considered to be secluded, threatening or far from popular areas like town centres, high streets, areas near public services, and local businesses, etc.?**

The published crime data is broken down by local authority multi-member ward area - further details of which are available online:

[5th Reviews - ward maps | Scottish Boundary Commission (boundaries.scot)](https://boundaries.scot/5th-reviews-ward-maps)

Beyond those boundaries however, Police Scotland do not categorise the locus of a crime in accordance with the parameters set out in your request.

Section 17 of the Act therefore applies as the information sought is not held by Police Scotland.

* **How many of these crimes happened during the hours of darkness, such as late afternoon/night-time?**

We do not record, whether a crime took place in the hours of darkness specifically, nor do we define late afternoon/ night-time in those terms. Section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

However, it may be possible to provide you with committed dates/ times for each crime (which will be several thousand for the period).

You should note however that Police Scotland record committed time as a start and finish, as opposed to a single entry. Many crimes, sexual crimes in particular, can span a lengthy period and so it will not be possible for you to attribute these to a time of day.

* **How many of these crimes resulted in the victims being seriously harmed?**

We do not record, in specific terms, the severity of any injuries and again, section 17 of the Act applies.

However, you may be interested in a comparison of data for common assaults, serious assaults and attempted murder - which are included via the link above.

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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/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.