| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2118  Responded to: xx September 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1. How many reports of out of control dogs have you dealt with between January and June 2023?

## 3. Please provide the same information for 2018-2022

*Your questions have been reordered for ease of response.*

Please be advised that statistics regarding such offences are publicly available.

As such, in terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought. Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

(a) states that it holds the information,

(b) states that it is claiming an exemption,

(c) specifies the exemption in question and

(d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested and the exemptions that I consider to be applicable are set out at Section 25(1) and Section 27(1) of the Act - information otherwise accessible:

*“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under Section 1(1) is exempt information”*

*“Information is exempt information if it is held with a view to its being published […] at a date not later than twelve weeks after that on which the request for the information is made.”*

The information you are seeking is available on the Police Scotland website, broken down into Multi-Member Ward (MMW) area, via the following link:

[Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/)

Further statistics are also available via the following link:

[How we are performing - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/)

You can search for in the crime column ‘G’ using keywords or the appropriate offence e.g. ‘Protection of livestock from dogs’ or Keeping dogs under proper control’ etc.

Please note that statistics for Q1 of the 2023/24 reporting year (April – June) will be published shortly.

## 2. Please outline the breed involved on each occasion

Having considered your questions in relation to the breed of dogunder the 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, even in a modern crime recording system there are no markers etc. to indicate the breed of dog involved in any offence. Furthermore the crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no facility which allows for us to search crime reports on the basis of presence of specific words or phrases, nor is it possible to conduct a force wide keyword search.

In conclusion, the only way to establish the specifics of your request would be to examine all relevant crimes for the time periods requested. Unfortunately, whilst this information is recorded in each case, the only way to access this data is to manually read each individual crime report, an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the fee regulations set out in the Act.

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.