| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-3191  Responded to: 29th December 2023 |
| --- | --- |

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

## 1. The number of stolen pets (dogs, cats, horses, other small animals) OR crimes involving stolen pets in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 (1 Jan – 30 Nov).

## 2. The date of the reported theft of a pet in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 (1 Jan – 30 Nov).

## 3. If recorded, the species and breed of animals stolen in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 (1 Jan – 30 Nov).

## 4. Please provide locations (where known) involving theft of the animal eg house/street/garden in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 (1 Jan – 30 Nov).

Having considered your request in terms of the above 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, the crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no facility which allows for us to conduct a keyword search of crime reports, nor is there a facility which allows us to search by nature of stolen property.

The only way to establish whether the property stolen was a pet, would be to individually examine all Theft offences, including Housebreaking offences, for the time period requested.

As illustrated by our [published statistics](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/), this would involve case by case assessment of a vast number of crime reports - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

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.