| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-0695  Responded to: xx March 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## The Home Office releases annual statistics on Use of Force by each police force in England and Wales, with the most recent figures for the financial year April 2022 to March 2023 available here (and attached):

## <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65609ea60c7ec8000d95bde0/police-use-of-force-apr2022-mar2023-tables.ods>

## Among the use of force tactics included in the statistical release are the following categories: “Dog use, of which”, “Dog deployed”, “Dog bite” and “Not stated dog”

## The statistical release also includes a breakdown of the above tactics by perceived ethnicity - see Table 16 of the attached spreadsheet.

## Please provide the equivalent figures for Police Scotland’s use of dogs from 2018 to the end of March 2023. Please can you:

## Break the figures down by financial year (ie April-18/March-19, Apr-19/Mar-20 etc)

## If easily retrievable, break the data on dog use down into the same categories as the above-mentioned Home Office release (ie “dog use”, “dog deployed”, “dog bite” etc). If your force does not centrally record its data on police dog use in the same categories as the attached Home Office release, and to recategorize the data for the purposes of this request would exceed the cost limit, then please provide the data in whichever format and categories it current exists.

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 methodology which would enable us to automatically recover the requested data and we would have to manually review all potentially relevant incidents and crime reports for all three regions and across multiple recording systems to capture the requested data.

## In this eventuality, please provide a detailed explanation as to how fulfilling the entire request would exceed the cost limit and advice and assistance under Section 16 on what information could be disclosed within the cost threshold.

I must advise that even were you to dramatically reduce the scope of the request (e.g. with a much shorter time frame) it is not clear whether an accurate response could be provided.

Statistics and associated information of varying degrees of complexity are frequently requested in terms of Freedom of Information legislation and as with all information released into the public domain by Police Scotland, a corporate responsibility exists to ensure that said information is both accurate and reliable.

## Please provide a separate table with the same data disclosed in response to Question 1 further broken down by the ethnicity of the person on whom force (in this case a police dog) was used – as per Table 16 in the attached spreadsheet.

Police Scotland do not currently collate information in terms of ethnicity/ race for any individual and this includes incidents involving the use of a police dog.

On that basis section 17 of the Act applies and I can confirm that the information sought is not held by Police Scotland.

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.