| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1793  Responded to: 06 August 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

1. **Monthly, from January 2018 to present, the number of people arrested, conveyed to a police station, and recorded in the National Custody System who were arrested as a result of a social media post**
2. **Monthly, from January 2018 to present, the number of people charged with a crime as a result of a social media post.**
3. **Monthly, from January 2018 to present, the number of people charged under the hate crime act as a result of a social media post.**
4. **Monthly, from January 2018 to present, the number of people charged with a hate crime as a result of a social media post.**
5. **Monthly, from January 2018 to present, the number of people who were entered into the national custody system and charged with a crime as a result of a social media post**
6. **Monthly, from January 2018 to present, the number of people who were entered into the national custody system and charged with a hate crime as a result of a social media post**
7. **Monthly, from January 2018 to present, the number of people who were entered into the national custody system and charged under the hate crime act as a result of a social media post**

## If possible, please separate this data between instances where the social media post(s) in question was evidence/indication of a crime and where it itself constituted the alleged crime.

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) - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

To explain, we have no means of searching our custody system on the basis that social media was a factor in the events that led up to the arrest.

Similarly, there are no such facilities within our crime recording system.

As you may be aware, crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the Scottish Government Justice Department crime classification codes and there are no classifications specific to online or indeed social media activity.

The types of crime that could potentially be covered by the scope of your request are extensive and all would have to be individually assessed for potential relevance - an exercise which, given the numbers involved, we estimate would far exceed £600 to complete.

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.