| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1974  Responded to: 07 September 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I’d like to make a request for the following information to be released:

## • The number of homicide or attempted murder investigation reports, since 2018, which make reference to a suspect being under the influence of drugs at the time of offence, broken down by year.

## • The number of these reports which references a suspect being under the influence of ‘cannabis’ or ‘skunk’ or 'skunkweed' at the time of offence, broken down by year.

## • Examples of homicide or attempted murder investigation reports (redacted as necessary) which references a suspect being under the influence of ‘skunk’ over the past 12 months.

In response to the three questions above, 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, during the time period stated, Police Scotland recorded 309 crimes of Murder. Using figures for the offence of murder only, each of the records will need to manually examined to determine if they hold any of the relevant data. To fully assess each record this will include the assessment of initial incidents, crime reports, and statements as such, a conservative estimate is that it would take 30 minutes to examine a single record and therefore this would equate to an excess of 154 hours of work. Please note this sum relates to the records the crime of murder only. To include records of the crime of attempted murder, this would increase the number of records held even further exceeding the cost threshold set out within the Act.

Police Scotland have assessed that the £600 cost limit within the Act equates to 40 hours of work and so this part of your request would breach the cost threshold.

Should you wish to significantly reduce the time period of your request it may be that some information could be provided to you, however it is worthy of note that the time period may have to be significantly narrow that this would mitigate any meaningful comparative data.

## • Any internal or external notes shared by the force within the past 12 months which references ‘skunk’ in relation to homicide investigations.

In response to this question, I must again respond 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, to identify any notes regarding murder investigations which references “skunk”, notebooks and mailboxes of every officer would need to manually examined to determine if any such information exists, Police Scotland has an excess of 16,500 officers. To examine each mailbox and notebook is an exercise that would greatly exceed the cost threshold set out within the Act.

As noted above, Police Scotland have assessed that the £600 cost limit within the Act equates to 40 hours of work and so this part of your request would breach the cost threshold.

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.