| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-2732  Responded to: 22 November 2024 |
| --- | --- |

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

**Please provide yearly figures for 2019. 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 along with monthly figures for 2024 to 31st August for each of the following questions:**

1. **The number of dogs seized under Scottish Crime Code 51/011**

I can advise that 80 crime reference numbers were returned in relation to the above-mentioned Scottish Crime Code between 01st January 2019 – 31st August 2024.

There is no mandatory field for the recording of whether the dog was seized within the related crime reports. I can advise that the free text of each record was manually reviewed with mention of 27 dogs being seized. With a yearly break down as follows:

2019 – 1

2020 – 2

2021 – 0

2022 – 1

2023 – 7

2024 - 16

I must stress that Police Scotland do not consider this to be an accurate means of analysis.

For the reasons above, we would therefore take the view that the data provided does not accurately reflect the prevalence of dogs seized under Scottish Crime Code 51/011. As it may be the case that the dog was seized but the detail was not recorded within the free text.

1. **The number of dogs destroyed after seizure under Scottish Crime Code 51/012**

We have interpreted question 2 to refer to Scottish Crime Code 51/011.

Similar to the information provided above, there is no mandatory field regarding the outcome after seizure.

I can advise that the free text of each record was manually reviewed with mention of 3 dogs being destroyed by third party organisations after seizure. The yearly breakdown, is as follows:

2019 – 0

2020 – 0

2021 – 0

2022 – 0

2023 – 0

2024 – 3

1 dog was destroyed at the scene by Police Scotland in 2024. This dog has not been included in the above stats, due to the dog being destroyed at the locus, instead of being destroyed after being seized. This dog was also not included in our response to question 1.

Again, I must stress that Police Scotland do not consider this to be an accurate means of analysis.

For the reasons above, we would therefore take the view that the data provided does not accurately reflect the prevalence of dogs destroyed after seizure under Scottish Crime Code 51/011. As it may be the case that the dog was seized and destroyed but the detail was not recorded within the free text.

We can also advise, once a dog has been seized, Police Scotland take no further part in its care.

Licensed kennels are based across Scotland and Police Scotland utilise the nearest kennel facility to where the dog has been seized.

Individual local authorities license the kennelling facilities that are used by Police Scotland for stray and dangerous dogs and therefore they are responsible for all aspects of the dog’s welfare and care.

1. **The number of dogs seized under Scottish Crime Code 51/012**
2. **The number of dogs destroyed after seizure under Scottish Crime Code 51/012**

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.

By way of explanation, our search returned 4,150 records. To provide the information you have requested, we would be required to carry out a manual check of all these records. As such, this is an exercise which would exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations

**5. The number of people charged each year under the Scottish Crime Code 51/011**

Of the 80 crimes recorded under the Scottish Crime Code 51/011 between January 2019 and August 2024, I can advise that 57 are detected crimes. Detected crimes are those where an accused has been identified and there exists a sufficiency of evidence under Scots Law to justify consideration of criminal proceedings.

The 57 detected crimes are broken down per year as follows:

2019 – 3

2020 – 5

2021 – 4

2022 – 3

2023 – 5

2024 - 37

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.