| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-0295Responded to: 31 March 2025 |
| --- | --- |

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

**Under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) I am requesting all information that Police Scotland hold in relation to Unidentified Flying Object/Unidentified Aerial Phenomena sightings for the period 1st January 2024 to the 31st December 2024. This includes all reports made by members of the public or employees of Police Scotland that include the following keywords:**

**UFO, UAP, UAV, USO, lights in the sky, aliens, extra-terrestrial beings, drones, orbs**

**This information should include date, time, location and the description given by the reporting person. No personal information of such witnesses should be included. Any reports that relate to vehicle registrations should be ignored.**

I must stress that Police Scotland do not consider keyword searches for specific words/ phrases to be an accurate means of analysis.

There may have been incidents of relevance to your request which do not include the specific words/ phrases that you have listed.

Similarly, spelling errors can skew the results of any analysis based on the presence of keywords.

It would however be nigh on impossible to come up with a list of comprehensive search terms - hence why we would not recommend the approach.

Although the phrase appears in an incident report, it cannot be assumed on that basis that the incident was directly related to the subject matter as per the context of your request.

For the reasons above, we would therefore take the view that the data below does not necessarily accurately reflect all incidents which relate to UFO, UAP, UAV, USO, lights in the sky, aliens, extra-terrestrial beings, drones, orbs.

I would also ask that you note that all incidents which come to the attention of the Service are recorded on STORM, Police Scotland’s incident management system. An incident may well not involve recourse to formal criminal proceedings, as individuals report varying matters to the police, some of which allege criminality, and others merely report observations. All such calls are recorded on STORM as an incident; however, the recorded incident does not always result in a corresponding recorded crime.

If it is deemed a criminal offence has been committed a crime or offence is recorded on the Service’s Crime Management system and a crime report raised. Accordingly, there are two separate processes for the recording of incidents and crimes.

The table below provides the date, time, location and description of each recorded incident.

It should be noted that some information has been withheld. I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the following exemptions apply:

**35(1)(a)&(b) – Law Enforcement**

Disclosure would prejudice substantially the prevention or detection of crime and apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

**38(1)(b) - Personal Data**

Personal data is defined in Article 4 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as:

‘Information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person (“data subject”); an identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person’.

*Table:* *Recorded Storm Incidents – Keyword search UFO, UAP, UAV, USO, lights in the sky, aliens, extra-terrestrial beings, drones, orbs – 1st January-31st December 2024*

| **Date** | **Time** | **Multi Member Ward** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 14/01/2024 | 19:51 | Trossachs and Teith | Poachers using drones |
| 17/01/2024 | 23:15 | Clydesdale South | Drones outside window |
| 14/01/2024 | 23:20 | Clydesdale South | 3 drones flying in street |
| 16/01/2024 | 02:17 | Clydesdale South | Drones flying around |
| 23/01/2024 | 01:19 | Clydesdale South | 2 drones at window |
| 20/01/2024 | 01:44 | Clydesdale South | Drones follow about house |
| 07/02/2024 | 01:01 | Clackmannanshire East | Male states he is seeing aliens |
| 07/02/2024 | 11:29 | Forres | Confused email - Drones |
| 20/02/2024 | 01:56 | Helensburgh Central | Male seeing aliens |
| 11/03/2024 | 21:59 | Clydesdale South | Advice on drones |
| 26/03/2024 | 10:21 | Midstocket/Rosemount | Drone/UAS/UAV incident |
| 28/03/2024 | 20/28 | Kirkcaldy East | Sees multiple drones in sky |
| 19/04/2024 | 23:17 | Rosyth | Drones above warship |
| 23/04/2024 | 14:17 | City Centre | Planned UAV flight |
| 04/05/2024 | 11:53 | Inverness Central | Rules of flying drones |
| 03/05/2024 | 11:11 | Aboyne, Upper Deeside and Donside | Surveying UAV flight |
| 13/05/2024 | 09:15 | Haddington and Lammermuir | Advice on Drones/ Footage |
| 01/06/2024 | 21:48 | Leith | Advice on Dronves |
| 26/06/2024 | 13:29 | Mearns | UAV activity tomorrow |
| 08/07/2024 | 00:59 | Clydesdale North | Drones Flying |
| 12/07/2024 | 16:04 | Hazlehead/Queens Cross/Countesswells | Information needed for drones |
| 15/07/2024 | 18:19 | Aird and Loch Ness | Info regarding drones required |
| 17/07/2024 | 18:01 | Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch | Reports of drones |
| 19/07/2024 | 16:45 | Kilmarnock West and Crosshouse | Drone/ UAS/ UAV incident |
| 03/03//2024 | 07:52 | Erskine & Inchinnan | Male seen UFO’s |
| 02/02/2024 | 00:38 | Kirriemuir & Dean | Lights and drones |
| 04/05/2024 | 23:51 | Eilean a Cheo | Advice requested reg drones |
| 22/07/2024 | 02:56 | North, West and Central Sutherland | UFO sighting |
| 15/07/2024 | 10:30 | Ft William and Ardnamurchan | Drones above vessel recovery |
| 11/08/2024 | 23:40 | Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy | 2 drones over business |
| 12/08/2024 | 21:21 | Tay Bridgehead | Notifying training with drones |
| 28/08/2024 | 01:59 | East Centre | 2 x drones sighted |
| 09/09/2024 | 15:36 | Caol and Mallaig | Shooting down drones |
| 17/09/2024 | 12:58 | West Mainland | Drones flying close to the ground |
| 17/09/2024 | 22:13 | Cumbernauld East | Strange lights in the sky |
| 23/09/2024 | 14:02 | Mid Argyll | Drone/ UAS/ UAV incident |
| 24/09/2024 | 15:51 | Clydebank Waterfront | Drone/ UAS/ UAV incident |
| 27/09/2024 | 13:21 | Bishopbriggs North and Campsie | Two males with drones |
| 02/10/2024 | 10:46 | Ellon and District | Seized drones and computers |
| 04/10/2024 | 13:39 | North, West and Central Sutherland | Drones seen hovering |
| 14/10/2024 | 09:17 | Jedburgh and District | UAV flight |
| 14/10/2024 | 09:21 | Galashiels and District | UAV flight |
| 14/10/2024 | 09:26 | Mid Berwickshire | UAV flight |
| 23/10/2024 | 14:08 | City Centre | Two males operating drones |
| 23/10/2024 | 16:09 | Anderston/City/Yorkhill | Flying drones from balcony |
| 24/10/2024 | 19:42 | Dunoon | UFO |
| 24/10/2024 | 22:38 | Strathallan | Concerned about drones |
| 29/10/2024 | 17:35 | Bearsden North | Lazor or lights in the sky |
| 14/11/2024 | 14:17 | Ardrossan and Arran | Seeing aliens – wishes to report |
| 15/11/2024 | 14:55 | Anderston/City/Yorkhill | Reporting aliens/ terrorist attack |
| 20/11/2024 | 05:33 | Anderston/City/Yorkhill | Seeing drones |
| 25/11/2024 | 14:02 | Paisley East and Central | Drones are following him |
| 27/11/2024 | 18:15 | Annick | 6 drones in farm area |
| 16/12/2024 | 01:49 | Dunbar and East Linton | Over 10 drones seen |
| 18/12/2024 | 21:32 | Ardrossan and Arran | Drones |
| 22/12/2024 | 20:57 | Inverclyde Central | Drones flying in street |

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 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](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by email 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.