

LETTER SENT BY EMAIL ONLY

4 April 2025

FOI Ref 2025/26-003

Request

Your request for information dated 3 April 2025 is copied below.

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. I would like to request the following data related to animal abuse reports in Scotland:

1. The number of animal abuse incidents reported to Police Scotland for the last five years (2019–2024), broken down by year.
2. The number of incidents investigated and the outcomes (e.g., charges filed, prosecutions, or no further action).
3. A breakdown of offences by type, including but not limited to neglect, cruelty, illegal breeding, and organised animal fighting.
4. The geographical distribution of reported incidents (e.g., by local authority or police division).
5. Any trends observed in the number of cases over the years, including any notable increases or decreases.

Response

The Scottish Police Authority has considered your request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act (FOISA).

The Authority does not hold the information requested.¹

The Authority provides governance and oversight of policing in Scotland and does not hold information on operational policing matters.²

Information may be available by contacting Police Scotland at foi@scotland.police.uk

You may also wish to refer to [Police Scotland's Disclosure Log](#).

¹ This represents a notice in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 - Information not held.

² [Scottish Police Authority - What We Do](#)

Right to Review

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your request you can ask for a review within 40 working days. You must specify the reason for your dissatisfaction and submit your request by email to foi@spa.police.uk or by letter to Scottish Police Authority, 1 Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1DZ.

If you remain dissatisfied after review, you can appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months. You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@foi.scot or by letter to Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Commissioner's decision, you can appeal to the Court of Session, only if you think the law has not been applied correctly.

This response will be posted to our [Disclosure Log](#) after seven days.

Yours faithfully

Scottish Police Authority

