

Statistics relating to offences under section 5 of the Control of Dogs Act 2010 and the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

1. The following information was obtained by SPICe from the Scottish Government. The figures are contained in three tables. The data in the first table is from the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS), while the data contained in the second and third tables (overleaf) is obtained from the Scottish Government Criminal Proceedings Database.

Explanatory note

2. The COPFS data is based on the total **number of charges** reported whilst the Scottish Government Criminal Proceedings statistics measure the number of people prosecuted with reference to the main charge in a case only. In any given case reported to COPFS, one person may be reported for a single charge, multiple charges under the same piece of legislation or multiple charges under different pieces of legislation. As such these two data sources are not directly comparable. There will also be timing differences since the COPFS figures are based on the year of the report to COPFS, while the Criminal Proceedings figures are based on year of disposal.

3. When a report is submitted by the police to the COPFS, prosecution in court is only one of a range of possible options for dealing with people who have been charged. The COPFS can decide to take no action e.g. if there is insufficient evidence, or if it is not in the public interest to proceed. Alternatively, the COPFS can decide to use a non-court direct measure such as a fiscal fine or a diversion from prosecution.

Charges reported to COPFS under Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act 2010 S5(1) & Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

Charge Description	Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act 2010 S5(1)	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991
2002-03	-	247
2003-04	-	278
2004-05	-	362
2005-06	-	259
2006-07	-	359
2007-08	-	337
2008-09	-	366
2009-10	-	445
2010-11	-	418
2011-12	13	741
2012-13	20	685
2013-14	38	597
2014-15	92	570
2015-16	52	492
2016-17	58	491
2017-18	71	400

Source:- Crown Office – data prior to 2002-03 not available

Number of people prosecuted for offences under section 5 of the Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act 2010, where main charge, 2010-11 to 2017-18		
section 5 of the Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act 2010		
Financial year	Total prosecuted	Total convicted
2010-11	-	-
2011-12	-	-
2012-13	4	4
2013-14	4	4
2014-15	11	9
2015-16	7	6
2016-17	10	9
2017-18	10	10

Number of people prosecuted for offences under Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, where main charge, 1991-92 to 2017-18		
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991		
Financial year	Total prosecuted	Total convicted
1991-92	24	16
1992-93	71	54
1993-94	61	48
1994-95	62	52
1995-96	44	30
1996-97	41	35
1997-98	48	27
1998-99	62	44
1999-00	67	47
2000-01	54	36
2001-02	40	26
2002-03	50	37
2003-04	67	48
2004-05	67	52
2005-06	64	52
2006-07	66	50
2007-08	61	43
2008-09	84	68
2009-10	63	49
2010-11	105	86
2011-12	122	96
2012-13	140	97
2013-14	122	86
2014-15	126	94
2015-16	110	78
2016-17	93	64
2017-18	105	82

Source: Scottish Government Criminal Proceedings database

