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Our Ref: IM-FOI-2021-0193  
Date: 18 February 2022



## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002**

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

***Please can you provide me with data on incidents of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) from 2014 onwards?***

I have attached at the bottom of this letter a spreadsheet providing you with the data requested.

***Could you also provide specific statistics on reports of "breast ironing" (also known as "breast flattening") from 2014 onwards?***

With regards to statistics on reports of "breast ironing" I can advise that Police Scotland does not hold information in the format requested. In terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that information is not held.

By way of explanation there is no specific code for such an offence.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management – Glasgow at [foi@scotland.police.uk](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to [foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk) or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

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As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.

**Table 1.**

**Title: Female Genital Mutilation Incidents (Vulnerable Persons Database) , Police Scotland <sup>1,2,3</sup>**

Period: 1st April 2014 - 31st December 2021 (Calendar Year)

	2014*	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Female Genital Mutilation Incidents	13	27	25	27	24	18	19	23

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 28th January 2022.

1. The data was extracted using the incident's raised date and extracted from iVPD.
2. Please note, iVPD Incidents can have more than one marker recored against the incident. Table 1 is a count of distinct incidents, which include the marker for Female Genital Mutilation. Other makers may also be recorded on the incident along with Female Genital Mutilation.
3. Please note, each record will need to be read to confirm the circumstances.

*Police Scotland does not retain any information for statistical purposes once a record has been weeded from iVPD. When a record is weeded, it is removed from the system, and there is no retention of data outside the weeding and retention policy. Please note, the weeding and retention policy states that if a person is recorded as "no concern / not applicable" then this will only be retained for 6 months.*

*Please note that these data are collated from the Police Scotland iVPD system, which has an automated weeding and retention policy built on to it. A copy of the retention policy is available on the Police Scotland internet site (<https://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/2021/june/21-1479-sop-records-retention/>).*