

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2605
Date: 16th December 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.

- 1. The total number of cyberstalking incidents recorded per calendar year for 2022. For clarification, if you can use the 'online' tag and these offences:**

**Stalking
Harassment
Malicious communications
Controlling and coercive behaviour**

- 2. Where possible, provide detail on each recorded incident (e.g harassment, stalking, stalking involving serious alarm/distress). For clarification, if you can give detail on offence type e.g. harassment. Please provide annual breakdown as per Q1**
- 3. The number of cyberstalking incidents in which the perpetrator(s) is identified, per calendar year for 2022 data. Please provide annual breakdown as per Q1**
- 4. The number of individuals that have reported cyberstalking offences to your police force, per calendar year for 2022 data. Please provide annual breakdown as per Q1**
- 5. Please provide details relating to the outcome of the perpetrator referenced in Q3 (e.g charge, caution, fixed penalty, resolution). This information should be broken down per calendar year for 2022 data.**
- 6. Breakdown of towns and cities data for all questions by calendar year**
- 7. Breakdown of age and gender for all questions by calendar year**

Crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the Scottish Government Justice Department offence classification codes and are not thereafter sub-categorised.

In this instance, there is no separate classification for 'cyberstalking' and any such offences would be recorded under the more general classification of 'stalking'.

As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

OFFICIAL

Please also note that the crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no markers etc. which would identify a crime as being online.

If it is of some interest, general stalking crime statistics are publicly available on the Police Scotland website:-

[How we are performing - Police Scotland](#)

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management Dundee, 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.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 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.

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.