| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 24-3184Responded to: 27 May 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

Tackling domestic abuse is a priority for Police Scotland and we are committed to working with our partners to reduce the harm it causes and ultimately eradicate it.

Domestic abuse is a despicable and debilitating crime which affects all of our communities and has no respect for ability, age, ethnicity, gender, race, religion or sexual orientation.

Police Scotland will not tolerate it.

Police Scotland will proactively target perpetrators and support victims to prevent domestic abuse from damaging the lives of victims and their families.

Police Scotland defines domestic abuse as:

“Any form of physical, verbal, sexual, psychological or financial abuse which might amount to criminal conduct and which takes place within the context of a relationship. The relationship will be between partners (married, cohabiting, civil partnership or otherwise) or ex-partners. The abuse may be committed in the home or elsewhere including online”

Please note that the definition of Domestic abuse in Scotland differs from the definition of Domestic Violence in England and Wales which includes wider familial abuse e.g. from parents or children etc.

**I am looking for domestic abuse response times and grading in different areas within police force territories. I would really appreciate it if you could outline responses to the following:**

1. **The grading system and definition used when categorising calls as 'DA' or 'DV' within your police force.**

We have interpreted DA and DV as the abbreviated forms of Domestic Abuse and Domestic Violence, Police Scotland can confirm the initial reporting of either would be created under the one incident type ‘Domestic Incident’.

All incidents, including ‘Domestic Incident’ are assessed using the THRIVE model to ensure the most appropriate response and priority grading are applied. The following are the 4 priority gradings and definitions available which could be used:

**Immediate** – Where circumstances dictate that there is a threat to life, property or an ongoing incident that requires a dynamic policing response.

**Prompt** – Crime / Incident where there is a degree of urgency required and a scheduled response is not appropriate based on the THRIVE assessment. Dispatched as soon as possible.

**Standard** – Crime / Incident which will not be prejudiced by a scheduled response, with police attendance being at a mutually agreeable time (includes Telephone appointments by the Resolution Team or Direct Crime Recording appointments so does not necessarily mean police attendance).

**Other Resolution** – Incidents that can be resolved by the Service Advisor at first point of contact or by some other means which do not require police attendance, including signposting to a partner agency.

**2) The grade given, response time, and local authority/area police were called to for each domestic abuse incident from 1/11/23 to 1/11/24.**

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

By way of explanation, for the 1-year period, C3 Division received 64,990 reports of domestic incidents. To provide the information requested would require a manual review of each incident. As such, this is an exercise which would exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

Furthermore, whilst I would normally suggest that a refined timescale is considered in cases where excessive cost is an issue, this would not be possible due to the likelihood of inaccuracies as a result of the recording method used. This relies on the manual action of Police Officers to mark themselves at scene which may not give an accurate representation of response times. I do not believe there is a way to refine your request and still produce meaningful statistics.

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.