

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1082
Date: 13 June 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.

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”

This definition is included in the Joint Protocol between Police Scotland and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS), “*In partnership challenging domestic abuse*” which is a public document that can be found at the Police Scotland website on <https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/ymzlwhwj/joint-protocol-between-police-scotland-and-copfs-in-partnership-challenging-domestic-abuse.pdf?view=Standard> or on the COPFS website on <http://www.copfs.gov.uk/>.

How many disclosures were made under Police Scotland’s Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse in Scotland (DSDAS).

Please provide details that show:

How many applications were made each year since it launched (2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and so far 2022).

Out of these totals please provide details as to how many involved a disclosure and what the outcome of that disclosure was.

Police Scotland asked for clarity for “what the outcome of that disclosure was” and you advised “if a disclosure was made, if not why not”

To enable me to answer your request a manual review of internal systems would be required and would take in excess of the 40 hour timescale to complete.

Therefore, in accordance with Sections 12(1) (Excessive cost of compliance) and 16(4) (Refusal of request) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (the Act), I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide any further information on why specific applications were not disclosed. However, all other requests have been provided.

DSDAS was launched nationally on 1st October 2015 and the figures provided start from this date.

DSDAS APPLICATION DATES	Number of Applications	Number of Disclosures
1 st Oct 15 – 30 th Sept 16	1045	528
1 st Oct 16 – 30 th Sep 17	1111	590
1 st Oct 17 – 30 th Sept 18	1367	718
1 st Oct 18- 30 th Sept 19	2194	947
1 st Oct 19 – 30 th Sept 20	3091	1852
1 st Oct 20 -30 th Sept 21	3665	2210
1 st Oct 21 – 24 th May 22	2668	1372
TOTAL	15,141	8217
All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data has been extracted from the Police Scotland DSDAS database and are correct as of 24 th May 2022		

The Disclosure Scheme Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) database is a dynamic database which is constantly being updated and changed. Duplicate applications are often submitted for persons potentially at risk.

Every application received by Police Scotland is assessed to confirm that it meets the criteria for disclosure. Once an application has been submitted further information may come to light meaning that the application is no longer appropriate, for example if the applicant is no longer in a relationship with that person. In this instance the application will not be progressed further. Additionally in such circumstances where there is no information to disclose the application will not progress to a disclosure. In this instance the applicant will be informed.

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.

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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 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.

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