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Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1501 & 1502
Date: 1st September 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.

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/> or on the COPFS website on <http://www.copfs.gov.uk/>.

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

I’m writing to you to request information through the Freedom of Information Act regarding domestic violence in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

I would like to know the number of domestic violence incidents reported in the last 12 months (01/07/2021 to 01/07/2022). This can include reports that were retracted and incomplete.

The term ‘domestic violence’ can include any situation that reported any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.

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I would also like this information to explain the following:

- **The month in which it was reported**
- **The age and gender of who it was reported by**
- **The outcome of the report**

Following a clarification request you confirmed that using our definition of Domestic Abuse which is noted at the start of this response would be acceptable.

You also advised that by Glasgow, you were referring to the City of Glasgow specifically rather than our Greater Glasgow division which also includes East Dunbartonshire and East Renfrewshire.

Finally, you confirmed that by “who it was reported by” you specifically meant the persons reporting the domestic incident and not the victim.

In regards to the number of reported domestic incidents broken down by month, please find this in tables 1-4 of the attached spreadsheet. I would ask you to carefully note the caveats provided below each data table.

In regards to the age and gender of the person who reported the domestic abuse, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

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, whilst our public protection system the Interim Vulnerable Persons Database (iVPD) does have a marker for the origin of a concern, review of this has identified that in most cases it will be completed as “Police Scotland”. Therefore, the only way to obtain the information requested would be to manually review each report to confirm the age and gender of the person reporting it.

As you can see from the attached document, many thousands of cases would need to be checked. If we take the City of Glasgow as an example, 9,777 records would need to be manually checked. At a conservative estimate of 5 minutes per record, this equates to over 814 hours of work to provide the information requested.

Police Scotland have assessed that the £600 cost limit within the Act equates to 40 hours of work and so this part of your request would breach the cost threshold.

Whilst I would normally suggest a reduced timescale is considered, as your request is already for a single year, I do not believe meaningful statistics can be provided in this instance.

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In regards to the outcome of the report, please find the number of detected crimes in table 5 and 6 of the attached spreadsheet. I would ask you to carefully note the caveats provided below each data table.

If you require further information in regards to the outcome of a report once it is sent to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal's Service, you can make a request to them at the following email address.

foi@copfs.gov.uk

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management 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.