| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1809  Responded to: 26th September 2023 |
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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 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 [Police Scotland (scotland.police.uk)](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 [Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (copfs.gov.uk)](https://www.copfs.gov.uk/)

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

In follow-up to FOI 23-1431 and in relation to the Domestic Abuse questions asked by officers to victims.

**I am requesting where this Informstion is officially recorded by officers.  
It does not stipulate within the sop how an officer records this information.  
Can you please provide me with clarity as to where the questions and answers to the DAQs should be officially recorded by an officer?**

Officers must complete the Domestic Abuse Questions (DAQ) and record the answers in their notebooks or PDA’s when they attend a domestic incident. The Domestic Concern Form generated following the incident requires officers to populate the DAQ answers into the concern form.

When someone is experiencing domestic abuse, it is vital to make an accurate and fast assessment of the danger they are in, so they can get the right help as quickly as possible. The DAQ, is a tried and tested way to understand risk and is based on extensive research of domestic abuse.

DAQ features heavily in Officer training and there are various safety nets provided by our structure and supervisor oversight that ensures that one is completed for every victim.

There will be occasions that officers cannot complete the DAQ when attending an incident. The victim might be uncooperative, there could be other more pressing matters like persons injured or child protection issues etc. Our 3-Tiered approach to Domestic Abuse ensures that our Tier 2 officers revisit the DAQ if one hasn’t been completed.

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](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) 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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) 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.