| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2253  Responded to: 26 September 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Does your force have a method of recording whether or not a missing person is known to have autism?

## The number of missing incidents related to those under the age of 18 who were autistic in your force area in 2022/23

## The number of missing incidents related to those over the age of 18 who were autistic in your force area in 2022/23

Having considered these questions in terms of the Act, 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, the recording of a missing person having Autism is something that is not searchable on National Missing Persons Application.

Therefore each of the below noted missing incidents would have to be examined to establish whether a vulnerability such as Autism is recorded.

You may be interested in our Standard Operating Procedure:

[missing-person-investigation-sop](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/nw5dkcbd/missing-person-investigation-sop-9-00-publication-version.docx)

## Please could you tell us:

## The number of total missing incidents related to those under the age of 18 in your force area in 2022/23

10,517

## The number of total missing incidents related to those over the age of 18 in your force area in 2022/23

7,437

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.