| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-1060Responded to: 4th May 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## The number of sexual offences reported to the force which the complainant said took place on a mixed-sex hospital ward in the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.

## The number of sexual offences reported to the force which the complainant said took place on a mixed-sex hospital ward which led to an arrest being made for the same years as Q1.

## The number of sexual offences reported to the force which the complainant said took place on a mixed-sex hospital ward which led to a charge for the same years as Q1.

## For those which led to a charge, please break the figures down by the offence which someone was charged with.

Having considered your request 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 crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no facility whereby a force wide search can be carried out for crimes with a particular locus type - ie hospitals.

As such, the only way to establish whether the locus of a crime was within a hospital would be to carry out case by case assessment of the locus of all sexual offences for the time period requested.

As illustrated by our [published statistics](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/), this would involve individually examining thousands of crime reports – an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

Alternatively, with a list, we could search the address of every hospital in Scotland individually but again, given the numbers involved, such an exercise is also assessed to be significantly time consuming.

## The number of sexual offences reported to the force which the complainant said took place on a mixed-sex hospital ward which led to a conviction for the same years as Q1.

## For those which led to a conviction, please break these figures down by the offence which someone was convicted with.

Police Scotland does not hold conviction information. As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

You may wish to contact the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscals Service (COPFS) which holds conviction information for Scotland. A request can be submitted to COPFS via email using the following address foi@copfs.gsi.gov.uk

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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/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.