| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-2657  Responded to: 26 August 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information relating to Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) provision within your force. Where possible, please provide total counts disaggregated by gender where this information is recorded. I generally expect yes/no responses, but any additional context would be gratefully appreciated.**

**1. Staffing and Deployment**

* **The number of officers/staff currently trained in DVI within your force (please indicate gender if recorded).**

There are 268 officers/staff trained in DVI.

Unfortunately, it would cost more than the FOI threshold of £600 to cross refer each of these names with our personnel database to determine their gender, and I am therefore refusing to do so in terms of section 12(1) of the Act.

* **The number of DVI-trained officers/staff deployed in the last five years, and the categories of incidents they were deployed to (please group as: terrorism, transport incidents, industrial accidents, and natural disasters) – total numbers only, to preserve anonymity.**

Over the last 5 years, 44 Officers have been deployed across 27 deployments.   
These deployments were DVI Assistance Tasks in support of Roads Policing (22 x Transport) and CID (5 x Suicide).

* **Which department or unit within the force is responsible for DVI planning and deployment.**

Major Incident Support and Coordination Unit, Major Crime, Specialist Crime Division.

* **The typical length of service an officer/staff member remains active on the DVI roster once trained (e.g., average number of years, or whether there is a set term).**

There is no set term. A DVI specialism is entirely voluntary, and an individual can withdraw from the cadre at any time. We can, however, advise that the average length of service is 20-25 years.

* **Whether your force applies any suitability checks or criteria prior to deployment of DVI-trained officers (e.g., health, psychological readiness, or operational availability).**

Officers/ staff submit a note of interest which is subject to national level sifting by a Detective Chief Superintendent, Detective Superintendent and the National Coordinator, prior to being DVI trained.

All applicants state their fitness to deploy at the start of the process, and they are assessed for fitness prior to deployment.

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](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) 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.