| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2458  Responded to: 11 October 2023 |
| --- | --- |

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

**I am requesting information on cases referred to in the media recently (see** [**here**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flaurajmiller86-dot-yamm-track.appspot.com%2F2HDeb6c27nqDC8bzJ7PzgJtlUpe-EC8UjBxzjCGQmbvrP-wK1igGtzfrPgLK9AOeuUjjMr_m3ovYNNdvS5hVMBveho0fxUq4De-FqXS_6HT5TI9vqmYX8LO1QHH3RePZXp1J9n0piDCIryAcHsLaUDyECgL7vYrQgJYH93jbqZJfl1dH6Sp_ong71mfZWhdD_uOQwsOW4ef74i9Xsl0vyCVHUpa0ArutPNgFZeQ8M7OkUDmcfYHAOeAMSejkCu0hyeI2XpZ68omx5aJ7QpA9p1w&data=05%7C01%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7Cef660a83ab1142a1067e08dbba34bd60%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638308508188646638%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ZQwx80eZ5eaVb%2Ba%2Fs1zw9VZaEQRvnWtfl56nHsAR4cI%3D&reserved=0) **and** [**here**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flaurajmiller86-dot-yamm-track.appspot.com%2F2oDGTE1Am0CWEIssbPRwGtJ8m6IFn33S3j6U5Joq780rX-wK1igGIheZ-YUSJOSN_jmOtkOJOBIHfNdZ-F65M03rcIb3P61oRpG6ZqMCIYyY1Dx90uWxztDyT35kUkBQYe2YZpx8sluN0jC55_wMWmUOceY6KdbIZ5La_ibhW8258EvUJvyaNzCiML3jsO5_A6EYUxmwVrA8CjtQ-UlDG13DeFfswMyU8CbFbyD1E-V2msPOnoKyUp5fPxTlj_v8JY2RAFw&data=05%7C01%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7Cef660a83ab1142a1067e08dbba34bd60%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638308508188646638%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=HZBWDQqPqfP0GQs2FfaTQaAg5yWqr8DenpCQGUn9m74%3D&reserved=0) **for example) of abortions performed beyond the legal limit, and any similar cases. I would request the information be formatted in a spreadsheet with the various columns denoting the information sought and/or via any sufficiently redacted reports.  
Specifically, I am requesting information on any reports of illegal abortion, coercing/forcing a miscarriage, or similar, and the method of doing so. I request that the number of incidents/reports for the last decade (2012-now) be broken down by suspect (e.g. the pregnant woman and/or third party(ies) such as a boyfriend, random attacker etc.), and alongside this, request the following be specifically denoted: the method of miscarriage/abortion (e.g. instruments, physical assault, women deliberately injuring themselves, etc. If pills were used, please denote the provider they were obtained from and if obtained after a telemedicine consultation or in person consultation); gestation of the pregnancy,   
Also broken down by suspect please denote the total number of arrests and total number of charges and under what legislation each arrest occurred / charge was brought (most likely HOC 14: Procuring illegal abortion; HOC 15: Concealing infant death close to birth; HOC 4/03 Child destruction, but could be under other legislation related to battery, grievous bodily harm, poisoning, etc.).**

Police Scotland record crimes as recorded and detected and use the Scottish Government Justice Department (SGJD) classifications as opposed to Home Office classifications. Please see the table below which details offences which I have deemed to be relevant to your enquiry:

| **Year** | **Abortion** | | **Concealment of Pregnancy** | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Recorded** | **Detected** | **Recorded** | **Detected** |
| 2019 | 1 | 1 |  |  |
| Total | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 25th September 2023.

The Abortion offence relates to procuring or attempting to procure and illegal abortion. The case was reported to the police approximately 30 years after it occurred.

**…and the final outcome of each report (e.g. if applicable please disclose whether there was a guilty plea, prosecution / trial, conviction, and any sentence, or if it was determined it was a miscarriage and a woman was wrongfully investigated, etc.).**

I can further advise you that Police Scotland does not hold prosecution/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](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.