| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-0874Responded to: 02 April 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I am submitting this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the management of sex offenders under the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) by your force.**

Protecting the public is a top priority for Police Scotland.  In Scotland Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), provides a comprehensive response to a complex issue, using professional assessment and management to properly target resources at those who pose a risk to the public.  Police Scotland works in partnership with a number of agencies through MAPPA to ensure that all Registered Sex Offenders are robustly managed within the community.  While we can never eliminate risk entirely, we want to reassure communities that all reasonable steps are being taken to protect them

**For the period 30th September 2023 to 30 September 2024, please provide the following information:**

1. **How many sex offenders were managed by your force under MAPPA during this period?**
2. **How many of these were classified as high risk?**

The information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

By way of explanation, The Violent & Sex Offender Register (ViSOR) is the UK database used to record information concerning the management of Registered Sex Offenders (RSOs).  Due to the nature of the legislation around Registered Sex Offenders (RSOs), the number of RSO’s recorded on ViSOR changes on a day-to-day basis and there is no way of collating the data requested.

To be of assistance, Police Scotland on a monthly basis publish data regarding the number of RSOs in our communities, broken down by policing division and post code area.

[Registered Sex Offender (RSO) Numbers - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/specialist-crime-division/sex-offender-policing-units/registered-sex-offender-rso-information/)

Furthermore, RSOs are subject to ongoing risk assessment and review which can result in change to their risk status.  There is no way of providing this information between dates due to the dynamic nature of risk.  For example, an offenders risk could have been assessed as High Risk on 30th September 2023, but on review 3 months later this risk level could have changed to Medium Risk.

1. **How many sex offenders currently managed under MAPPA by your force are recorded as missing?**

To provide clarity it is important understand the definition of a “missing” Registered Sex Offender.

A missing person is defined as anyone whose whereabouts is unknown and:

* where the circumstances are out of character or
* the context suggests the person may be subject to crime or
* the person is at risk of harm to themselves or another.

To provide a response, unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request.  I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

By way of explanation, to provide the number Registered Sex Offenders missing between those dates would require a manual search of the Registered Sex Offenders records, this is an exercise that would greatly exceed the cost threshold set out within the Act.

To be of assistance, Police Scotland publish the current number of missing Registered Sex Offenders on our website at the end of each month.

[Registered Sex Offender (RSO) Numbers - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/specialist-crime-division/sex-offender-policing-units/registered-sex-offender-rso-information/)

Police Scotland treats all missing Registered Sex Offenders with the utmost seriousness and will carry out all possible enquiries to trace their whereabouts and to re-establish the management required to protect the public.

On all occasions a Senior Investigating Officer (SIO) of a rank no less than Inspector will be appointed to lead these investigations.

1. **How many risk-managed sex offenders notified your force of a name change during this period?**

An individual who has received a conviction or finding in respect of a specified offence under Schedule 3 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 is automatically subject to the Notification Requirements of Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

As previously stated, ViSOR is the UK database used to record information concerning the management of RSOs, including information obtained from their notification requirements.

One of these notification requirements is in respect of the offender’s name, it should be noted this requirement not only applies to the individuals name but can be other names used by the offender and include usernames, email addresses etc

The number of notifications Police Scotland received and recorded on ViSOR in respect of notifications concerning an offender’s name between 30th September 2023 and 30th September 2024 were 262.

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](https://www.foi.scot/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.