| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0820  Responded to: 19th May 2023 |
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Your request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding.

In considering our response to your request, the following information may provide some useful information and context.

The Police Scotland [Complaints About the Police Standard Operating Procedure](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/fifhh5vo/complaints-about-the-police-sop.pdf) outlines how we deal with complaints.

Complaints are recorded in accordance with the categories listed at appendices G and H, none of which you will note directly align to the terminology used in your request.

You should also note that whilst a complaint *may* lead to conduct proceedings in some circumstances (not necessarily every aspect of the complaint, or every officer involved) which may then lead to disciplinary action - complaints themselves are not recorded in those terms in terms of outcome.

There is therefore potential for the same officer/ circumstances to appear on a complaint case and a conduct case and, as a result, complaints and conduct matters cannot simply be added together.

The formal conduct process for Police Officers is governed by [The Police Service of Scotland (Conduct) Regulations 2014](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2014/68/contents/made).

The associated [Scottish Government Guidance Document](https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/factsheet/2018/04/conduct-and-performance-procedures-police-guidance/documents/police-guidance-conduct-procedures/police-guidance-conduct-procedures/govscot%3Adocument/Police%2BService%2Bof%2BScotland%2B%2528conduct%2529%2Bregulations%2B2014.pdf) further details the process and conduct cases are categorised in line with our [Standards of Professional Behaviour](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/who-we-are/our-standards-of-professional-behaviour/).

Again, you will note that none of the categories directly align to the terminology used in your request.

The complaint process and the conduct process are distinct from each other and both have separate assessment and recording processes within the Professional Standards Department (PSD) database.

**I would like to know where I can find the current statistics for the amount of Scottish police officers who are currently under investigation for sexual abuse and domestic violence.**

Whilst we do not currently publish the statistics in the format you have requested, the Assistant Chief Constable for Professionalism and Assurance publically reports to the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) Complaints and Conduct Committee on a quarterly basis on a range of matters progressed by the Professional Standards Department (PSD).  You may find the information contained within the PSD quarterly reports to the Committee interesting – they can be accessed on the SPA website [here](https://www.spa.police.uk/meetings/complaints-and-conduct-committee/).

Whilst Police Scotland do not use the recording categories ‘sexual abuse’ or ‘domestic violence’, the PSD database has a ‘sexual circumstance’ and a ‘domestic circumstance’ marker that can be appended to any conduct or complaint case containing allegations which are perceived to contain a sexual or domestic element, whether physical or non-physical, criminal or non-criminal.

The figures provided relate to live cases under investigation as at 18/04/2023.

For the purpose of your request in relation to ‘sexual abuse’, 48 police officers are subject to allegation(s) with a ‘sexual circumstance’ marker.

In relation to ‘domestic violence’, 9 police officers are subject to allegations involving a ‘domestic circumstance’ marker defined as a Crime of Violence, Crime of Indecency or Petty Assault.

Please note that it is possible for any allegation - and for any officer linked to those - to involve both a sexual and a domestic element. Therefore, the figures provided above may involve an overlap of those circumstances.

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.