| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-0535  Responded to: 07 April 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

The Police Scotland [Complaints About the Police Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/fifhh5vo/complaints-about-the-police-sop.pdf) outlines how we deal with complaints and they are categorised as per appendices C and D of that document.

The formal disciplinary 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 Police Service of Scotland (Conduct) Regulations 2014 [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) provides further information on the Conduct 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/).

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.

Once complaint matters are concluded, the circumstances may be referred for a Conduct Assessment (not necessarily every aspect of the complaint, or every officer involved). There is therefore potential for the same individual/circumstances to appear on a complaint case and a conduct case. Due to these processes, complaints and conduct matters cannot simply be added together.

**(I) How many police officers have been accused of sexual harassment whilst on duty since 01-01-2020 to 31-12-2024**

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

By way of explanation, crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the [Scottish Government Justice Department (SGJD)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/user-guide-recorded-crime-statistics-scotland-3/documents/) offence classifications, however there is no Scottish crime classification relevant to your request.

**(Ii) How many police officers haven been accused of sexual assault whilst on duty since 01-01-2020 to 31-12-2024**

Data has been provided below which details the number of subject officers linked to sexual assault allegations whilst on duty which were received between 01/01/2020 – 31/12/2024 inclusive, as attached to Complaint and Conduct cases. Only those allegations linked to Police Officers, as subject officers, have been included below as per the specifics of your request.

Please note that criminal allegation categories recorded on Professional Standards database have recently been updated on 01/04/2024 to align to the current Scottish Crime Recording Standards (SCRS). Data recorded prior to this date may therefore not align with the current SCRS and this may impact on specific criminal categories in terms of how they have been recorded on the Professional Standards database prior to this date.

Data is based on the case received date.

*Table 1: Subject Officers linked to allegations of sexual assault whilst on duty (complaints), by calendar year*

| **Calendar year** | **Number of subject officers** |
| --- | --- |
| 2020 | 7 |
| 2021 | 15 |
| 2022 | 12 |
| 2023 | 10 |
| 2024 | 8 |

**(iii) How many of these officers were suspended pending an investigation for each of the above.**

Data is provided below which details the number of subject officers suspended in relation to allegations of sexual assault whilst on duty based on Complaint and Conduct cases received between 01/01/2020 – 31/12/2024 inclusive.

Please note that cases received may remain subject to live investigation, therefore suspensions may be applied at a later date in relation to the allegations received. As a result, the number of suspensions provided below may be subject to change at a later date.

Please also note that the date of suspension may vary from the date on which the complaint or conduct case was received.

Data is based on the case received date.

*Table 2: Subject Officers suspended in relation to allegations of sexual assault whilst on duty (complaints), by calendar year*

| **Calendar year** | **Number of subject officers suspended** |
| --- | --- |
| 2020 | 0 |
| 2021 | 0 |
| 2022 | 0 |
| 2023 | 0 |
| 2024 | 0 |

*Table 3: Subject Officers suspended in relation allegations of sexual assault whilst on duty (conduct), by calendar year*

| **Calendar year** | **Number of subject officers suspended** |
| --- | --- |
| 2020 | 1 |
| 2021 | 1 |
| 2022 | 4 |
| 2023 | 2 |
| 2024 | 0 |

**(Iv) How many officers were convicted of said offences.**

Data is provided below which details the number of subject officers convicted in relation to allegations of sexual assault whilst on duty, based on Complaint and Conduct cases received between 01/01/2020 – 31/12/2024 inclusive.

Please note cases received may remain subject to live investigation and/or legal proceedings, therefore may not yet be concluded. As a result, the number of convictions provided below may be subject to change at a later date.

Please also note the date of conviction will vary from the date on which the complaint or conduct case was received.

Data is based on the case received date.

*Table 4: Subject Officers convicted in relation to allegations of sexual assault whilst on duty (complaints), by calendar year*

| **Calendar year** | **Number of subject officers suspended** |
| --- | --- |
| 2020 | 0 |
| 2021 | 0 |
| 2022 | 0 |
| 2023 | 0 |
| 2024 | 0 |

*Table 5: Subject Officers convicted in relation to allegations of sexual assault whilst on duty (conduct), by calendar year*

| **Calendar year** | **Number of subject officers suspended** |
| --- | --- |
| 2020 | 0 |
| 2021 | 0 |
| 2022 | 1 |
| 2023 | 0 |
| 2024 | 0 |

**(v) How many of these officers were sacked or resigned of their own accord due to their convictions.**

**(vi) How many of these officers are still currently serving within Police Scotland who have been convicted of the above offences & therefore a criminal record for the above offences.**

The single subject officer identified in the previous question convicted in relation to a sexual assault committed whilst on duty, based on complaint and conduct cases received between 01/01/2020 – 31/12/2024 inclusive has resigned from the Police Service of Scotland and is no longer a serving officer.  It is not possible to factually conclude the subject officer resigned specifically due to their conviction.

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.