| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-3247  Responded to: 16 January 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I am a year 3 PCDA student in Gwent Police currently writing a dissertation based on coercive control investigations. I am focussing on the difficulties that police in England and Wales face in evidencing the behaviour and the impact that it has on the victims. During my research, I have found that Scottish law differs slightly, with the legislation focussing more on the offender behaviour and intent rather than the effect that it has on the victim.

## I am writing to request information relating to domestic abuse investigations in Scotland since the law was implemented. The information relates to s1 Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018. I would like to know how many arrests have been made since the legislation was brought into force, and of those arrests, how many resulted in a charge. If at all possible, I would also like to know the main reason for any investigations being NFA’d.

## I will then compare this with the data I have already collected to explore whether the differences in legislation make it easier or harder to investigate and evidence coercive and controlling behaviour.

Please be advised that recorded and detected crime statistics are publicly available.

As such, in terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought. Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

(a) states that it holds the information,

(b) states that it is claiming an exemption,

(c) specifies the exemption in question and

(d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at Section 25(1) of the Act - information otherwise accessible:

*“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under Section 1(1) is exempt information”*

The information you are seeking is available on the Police Scotland website, via the following link: [Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/) - Group 1 refers, and shows both male and female. You should note that in Scotland, we record crimes as recorded/detected and do not use Home Office outcome classifications such as no further action.

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.