

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0122
Date: 28 January 2022



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

- **How many asylum-seeking children were reported as missing for over 72 hours to your police force in each calendar year 2021, 2020, 2019? Please provide information on the total length of time they were missing for before being found.**
- **How many remain missing/unaccounted for?**
- **In each calendar year 2021, 2020, 2019, how many unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) have been reported missing from temporary accommodation such as a hotel or B&B OR were last seen at a hotel or B&B?**
- **In each calendar year 2021, 2020, 2019, how many unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) have been reported missing from local authority care (such as a children's home or foster care)?**

In response to your request I advise you that in April 2016, Police Scotland introduced the National Missing Persons Database (NMPD) to collect detailed statistical information about missing person's investigations undertaken by Police Scotland.

A missing person investigation is defined as "*a police response to an incident of someone going missing, including the deployment of resources*".

As Police Scotland undertakes approximately 18,000 missing persons investigations each year, to provide all of the requested information for the requested time period would breach the cost limitations of the Act as it would be necessary to examine individual missing person's reports. In terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

You may wish to consult a recent Freedom of Information response which detailed children missing from care establishments. You can access this on Police Scotland's website via the following link. I must however stress that to establish whether these children are asylum seeking would require case by case research and as such would exceed the cost threshold.

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/2021/december/21-2683-missing-persons-misper-stats-children-in-care-5yrs/>

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee on foidundee@scotland.pnn.police.uk quoting the reference number given.

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If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.

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