

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1865
Date: 12th September 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.

May I request the following information under freedom of information legislation:

1) The number of times Police Scotland have used their ‘power to tell’ to proactively notify a potential victim of their partner’s offending history through the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland. Please provide this figure for the financial years of 2019- 20, 2020-21 and 2021-22.”

The Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) provides a formal means for concerned members of the public and professionals to make inquiries about someone’s partner if they are worried they have been abusive in the past.

The DSDAS database has been developed to record all applications into the scheme, document their progression and record decision making. However, not all applications will lead to a disclosure and may be routed out the scheme due to their individual circumstances.

Please find the information in the table below which relates to the number of **Power to Tell** disclosures where Police Scotland proactively exercised their power to do so.

Year	Total Number of Power To Tell Disclosures
2019-2020	1,185
2020-2021	1,879
2021-2022	1,959

DSDAS is a time bound, staged process with guidelines stating that disclosures should be made within 45 days where possible. There will, however be occasions where disclosures are made out with these timescales, either earlier or later depending on the circumstances.

Full details of the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) are available on the Police Scotland website on the following link;

OFFICIAL

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-information/domestic-abuse/disclosure-scheme-for-domestic-abuse-scotland/>

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management quoting the reference number given.

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.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.