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Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2223
Date: 9th November 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.

Tackling domestic abuse is a priority for Police Scotland and we are committed to working with our partners to reduce the harm it causes and ultimately eradicate it.

Domestic abuse is a despicable and debilitating crime which affects all of our communities and has no respect for ability, age, ethnicity, gender, race, religion or sexual orientation.

Police Scotland will not tolerate it.

Police Scotland will proactively target perpetrators and support victims to prevent domestic abuse from damaging the lives of victims and their families.

Police Scotland defines domestic abuse as:

“Any form of physical, verbal, sexual, psychological or financial abuse which might amount to criminal conduct and which takes place within the context of a relationship. The relationship will be between partners (married, cohabiting, civil partnership or otherwise) or ex-partners. The abuse may be committed in the home or elsewhere including online”

This definition is included in the Joint Protocol between Police Scotland and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS), “*In partnership challenging domestic abuse*” which is a public document that can be found at the Police Scotland website on <https://www.scotland.police.uk/> or on the COPFS website on <http://www.copfs.gov.uk/>.

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

1. Number of domestic abuse incidents reported to Police Scotland in fife area from the period 1st January 2020 to present day

Please find the requested in the table below. I would ask you to carefully note the caveats below the table provided.

Recorded Domestic iVPD Incidents, Fife Division Period: 1st January 2020 to 31st October 2022, Calendar Years

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	2020	2021	2022*
Domestic Incidents	4864	4997	4214

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 6/11/2022.

Police Scotland does not retain any information for statistical purposes once a record has been weeded from iVPD. When a record is weeded, it is removed from the system, and there is no retention of data outside the weeding and retention policy. Please note, the weeding and retention policy states that if a person is recorded as "no concern / not applicable" then this will only be retained for 6 months.

Please note that these data are collated from the Police Scotland iVPD system, which has an automated weeding and retention policy built on to it. A copy of the retention policy is available on the Police Scotland internet site (<https://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/2021/june/21-1479-sop-records-retention/>).

2. Number of domestic abuse cases in fife which have led to charges brought against alleged abuser and procurator fiscal has taken it to court, during same period as above

3. Number of domestic abuse cases in fife, during above time frame whereby the procurator fiscal or police have not pressed charges

In relation to these two questions and in regards to actions taken by Police Scotland, please find statistics on recorded and detected domestic abuse crimes in the tables below. Recorded crimes include all crimes that have been reported to police. A detected crime is one where a charge has been made and a report made to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscals Service (COPFS) or a another disposal given such as a etc given.

Again, I would ask you to carefully note the caveats below the tables provided and in particular the different dates used to retrieve these statistics.

Title: Recorded Domestic Crimes, Fife Division
Period: 1st January 2020 to 31st October 2022, Calendar Years

	2020	2021	2022*
Recorded Domestic Crimes	3627	3474	3132

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 6/11/2022.

The data was extracted using the crime's raised date.

Police Scotland does not retain any information for statistical purposes once a record has been weeded from iVPD. When a record is weeded, it is removed from the system, and there is no retention of data outside the weeding and retention policy. Please note, the weeding and retention policy states that if a person is recorded as "no concern / not applicable" then this will only be retained for 6 months.

Please note that these data are collated from the Police Scotland iVPD system, which has an automated weeding and retention policy built on to it. A copy of the retention policy is available on the Police Scotland internet site (<https://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/2021/june/21-1479-sop-records-retention/>).

Title: Detected Domestic Crimes, Fife Division
Period: 1st January 2020 to 31st October 2022, Calendar Years

	2020	2021	2022*
Detected Domestic Crimes	2747	2542	2213

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 6/11/2022.

The data was extracted using the crime's detected date.

Police Scotland does not retain any information for statistical purposes once a record has been weeded from iVPD. When a record is weeded, it is removed from the system, and there is no retention of data outside the weeding and retention policy. Please note, the weeding and retention policy states that if a person is recorded as "no concern / not applicable" then this will only be retained for 6 months.

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In relation to detected crimes where a case was reported to COPFS but where they did not proceed with a case, case disposal information is held by the COPFS rather than Police Scotland. As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information requested is not held by Police Scotland.

You may wish to make a request to COPFS directly using the following email address:
foi@copfs.gov.uk

4. Statistics please for how many five domestic abuse cases brought to court in Dundee sheriff court have resulted in not guilty verdicts compared to those found guilty

Conviction or case disposal information is held by COPFS rather than Police Scotland. As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information requested is not held by Police Scotland.

You may wish to make a request to COPFS directly using the following email address:
foi@copfs.gov.uk

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.