| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-1174Responded to: 19th May 2023 |
| --- | --- |

Protecting the public is a top priority for Police Scotland. In Scotland Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), provides a comprehensive response to a complex issue, using professional assessment and management to properly target resources at those who pose a risk to the public. Police Scotland works in partnership with a number of agencies through MAPPA to ensure that all Registered Sex Offenders are robustly managed within the community. While we can never eliminate risk entirely, we want to reassure communities that all reasonable steps are being taken to protect them.

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## How many people with an address in Shetland are currently on the sex offenders register? Please prove information from the last five years, broken down by year.

The Violent & Sex Offender Register (ViSOR) is the UK database used to record information concerning the management of Registered Sex Offenders (RSO). This is a management tool, not a statistical tool, therefore there are limitations to the information that can be extracted. Any data return resulting from a search of ViSOR is only valid at the point in time the search was undertaken. It is not possible to obtain retrospective details of the number of RSOs at any previous point in time.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, Police Scotland, on a monthly basis, publish data regarding the number of Registered Sex Offenders in our communities, broken down by policing division and postcode area.

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 via the following link:

[Registered Sex Offender (RSO) Numbers - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/specialist-crime-division/sex-offender-policing-units/registered-sex-offender-rso-information/)

## How many people with an address in Shetland have been removed from the sex offenders register over the last five years? Please break this down by year.

ViSOR does not record data based on named geographical locations and as such, the postcodes ZE1 and ZE2 have been identified as relevant to Shetland.

In the last 5 full calendar years there have been a total of 19 individuals removed from the “Sex Offenders Register” from the postcodes ZE1 and ZE2.

The table below provides a breakdown by year and includes data up to 9th May 2023

| **Year** | **Removed from Sex Offenders Register** |
| --- | --- |
| 2018 | 4 |
| 2019 | 3 |
| 2020 | 3 |
| 2021 | 3 |
| 2022 | 6 |
| 2023 | 2 (to date)  |

Registered Sex Offenders are removed from the Register by virtue of:

* Their defined period on the Register expiring.
* Indefinite Review in respect of Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Remedial) (Scotland) Order.
* Successfully appealing conviction which placed them on the Register.
* Death

## How many people have been charged with drink driving offences in Shetland in the last 5 years? Please break this down by age, gender, and year.

Please be advised that statistics regarding drink driving offences 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 exemptions that I consider to be applicable is set out at Section 25(1) and Section 27(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”

“Information is exempt information if it is held with a view to its being published […] at a date not later than twelve weeks after that on which the request for the information is made.”

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/)

Please note that Police Scotland aim to have historic data published by the end of May 2023.

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 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 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.