

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1539  
Date: 03 August 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.

**Can you please tell me how many suspected people trafficking victims have been arrested by police in Scotland in each of the last five years? How many of those people were children?**

**Can you outline the reasons why they were arrested e.g in connection with Misuse of Drugs Act 1971?**

**Can you tell me the nationalities of these suspected trafficking victims?**

**Can you break down the numbers of these arrests by police division area?**

In response to your request I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as Police Scotland do not hold this information. As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

By way of explanation Police Scotland do not record this information centrally and may not be aware of a person who may be a victim of trafficking at the time of their arrest. There are arrest records kept for each person who is brought into Police Scotland custody, however these records may not provide information as to whether or not a person is suspected to be a trafficking victim. The reason for this is that a person may claim or be suspected to be a victim of trafficking at any point in their journey to becoming a survivor of trafficking including at any point in the criminal justice process. This information may not be known or suspected at the time of arrest.

Police Scotland hold records of each Home Office National Referral Mechanism (NRM) record which has been notified to Police Scotland by the Single Competent Authority. The NRM is a notification to the Chief Constable that there may be a potential victim of trafficking in their area and is the mechanism to secure support for potential victims of trafficking in the United Kingdom. An adult must consent to be entered into the NRM. A victim of trafficking may also enter the NRM at any stage of their journey therefore, the information held on the NRM records may not provide a complete number of victims in Scotland nor if they have been subject to arrest.

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Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee 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.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk) or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalrnarnock, 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](mailto: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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