| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-3066  Responded to: 03 April 2024 |
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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 [Police Scotland (scotland.police.uk)](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/ymzlwhwj/joint-protocol-between-police-scotland-and-copfs-in-partnership-challenging-domestic-abuse.pdf?view=Standard) or on the COPFS website on [Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (copfs.gov.uk)](https://www.copfs.gov.uk/)

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

**Question 1. How many cases of domestic abuse are there where children are present in the household? Could you please provide this data for the past five calendar years until the date of this request.**

Following clarification you confirmed:

**The data I require is the instances of domestic abuse when a child/children reside at the address of the offence.**

Following further clarification you confirmed:

## Could I please have both separate data sets one showing the number of incidents that are crime only and all the incidents of domestic abuse including the no crime incidents.

In response to your request, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

As such, and 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.

By way of explanation, whilst our interim Vulnerable Persons Database (iVPD) holds a marker which is applied when a child is present at a locus of a domestic incident, it does not have a specific marker for whether the child resides there.

A manual check of each incident with a child at the locus would be required to determine whether the child also resided there.

In regard to all incidents 106,140 iVPD records would need to be manually checked. At a conservative estimate of 5 minutes per record, this equates to 8,845 hours of work to provide the information requested.

In regard to just the crime incidents 46,011 iVPD records would need to be manually checked. At a conservative estimate of 5 minutes per record, this equates to over 3,834 hours of work to provide the information requested.

Police Scotland have assessed that the £600 cost limit within the Act equates to 40 hours of work and so this part of your request would breach the cost threshold.

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](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) 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](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) 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.