| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-2271  Responded to: 10 September 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## The number of offences involving so-called ‘honour-based’ abuse to the year ending March 2025.

The term Honour Based Violence was previously used nationally by Police Scotland.

However, in recognition of the limitations that the term ‘violence’ may suggest, and in alignment with the national definition of domestic abuse, Police Scotland now use the term Honour Based Abuse (HBA).

HBA embraces a variety of incidents or crimes including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, abduction, forced marriage, imprisonment and murder (not an exhaustive list), where the individual, their family or community is punished for actually, or allegedly, undermining what the family or community believes to be the correct code of behaviour, and which could bring shame to the family or community.

Incidents of HBA where there is a ‘concern’ for an individual (whether a protection or wellbeing concern) are recorded on Police Scotland’s interim Vulnerable Persons Database (iVPD).

There is no statutory crime of HBA in Scotland, HBA is an aggravator for other crimes. The incidents recorded on our iVPD indicate a HBA ‘concern’ and do not necessarily mean a crime has been recorded.

The iVPD is the formal means by which Police Scotland record police contact with adults, children and young people who are, or who are perceived to be, experiencing some form of adversity and/ or situational vulnerability, which may impact on their current or future wellbeing; or where force policy dictates e.g. domestic abuse, hate crime, youth offending or to record details of victim’s rights under Section 8 and 9 of the Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2014.

The data provided has been obtained from the iVPD and provides the best indicator of incidents of HBA where it is assessed there is a protection or wellbeing concern.

Where criminality is identified, crimes are then linked to the relevant concern report. Within the iVPD database, although a victim is only counted once for each concern report that they are recorded in, they may be linked to more than one crime within that iVPD concern report.

The iVPD is a dynamic database which is constantly being updated and changed.

In order to be of assistance, the table below details nominals recorded on iVPD for the financial year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025:

| **Nominals with an HBA marker** | |
| --- | --- |
| 2024/25 | 161 |

Number of Nominals with a HBA marker - period April 2024 to March 2025  
This marker is against the person and not against individual crimes.  
All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information.   
Data was extracted from Police Scotland systems and are correct as at 02/09/2025.

## Please also provide break-downs by type of abuse and offence category.

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 and as noted above, there is no statutory crime of HBA in Scotland. HBA is an aggravator for other crimes of violence therefore there is no single searchable Scottish Government Justice Department (SGJD) crime code we can use to search the crime management system for HBA crimes. Thus, we would need to cross refer all VPD records with any associated crime reports manually to identify the relevant data.

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](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) 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.