

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0751
Date: 25 April 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.

Would I be able to request finding out the information from the year 2020 only. In D division (Tayside) opposed to the whole of Scotland.

I am keen to obtain figures for how many times a Sexual Offences Liaison Officer allocated to a victim of sexual offences has also been involved with the suspect (such as for the arrest or/and interview). In particular the number of times this has happened and the percentage this equates to out of the total number of solo deployments. I appreciate this is likely a large volume of information and therefore I am specifically interested in the years 2020 and 2021. If this information is available and can be disclosed I would be keen to have it broken down by divisions throughout Scotland so it can be established in which areas this practice occurs.

Having considered your request in terms of the above Act, 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, a Sexual Offences Liaison Officer (SOLO) is an experienced officer, trained to the National Standard, who is appointed as a single point of contact to a victim throughout the duration of investigations of Rape and Serious Sexual Offences.

A Senior Investigating Officer is appointed to every Rape enquiry and it will be their responsibility for the appointment and direction of an enquiry team incorporating the appointed SOLO.

The SOLO will be an integral part of the enquiry team and, amongst other things, is specially trained and responsible for noting the statement from the victim, facilitating any forensic medical examination and providing regular updates throughout the course of the investigation. On occasion this may also include involvement in the interview of suspects however for reasons of forensic integrity and potential for cross contamination, any officer

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in recent contact with the victim would not interact with the suspect, prior to forensic samples and or other items of enquiry relevance being seized.

The total number of rapes for calendar year in 2020 for D Division was 219. The total number of other sexual offences recorded was as follows for each calendar year 2020 was 1262. All of the reports of rape as well as certain other sexual offences would require the deployment of a SOLO. Details of the arresting / interviewing officer can be recorded on the Crime Report or the formal police report submitted to the Crown Office and Procurators Fiscal Office (where a person has been arrested and charged with the crime of rape).

The only way to gather the information requested, would require an individual to manually check each individual crime report for the SOLO details. If we estimate that it would take 5 minutes to review each file 5 minutes x 1481 files would total approximately 123 hours and at a cost of £15 per hour would exceed the time and cost threshold.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management – Glasgow at foi@scotland.police.uk 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 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.