| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-0822Responded to: 28th April 2023 |
| --- | --- |

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.

**How many domestic abuse incidents have the police been called to attend where a non-harassment order is in place, each year for the past ten years ?**

**What percentage of the total number of domestic abuse callouts does this number represent, each year for the past ten years?**

In regards to both of your questions 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, there is no way in with we can automatically retrieve the domestic abuse incidents which were attended where a non-harassment order was in place. Each domestic abuse incident recorded for the period requested would have to be manually reviewed to confirm this. To give an example of the scale of this task, if we look at just the 2021/22 year, you will see from the statistics published by the Scottish Government which I have linked below that 64,807 domestic abuse incidents were recorded when you include those which include and do not include the recording of a crime.

[Supporting documents - Domestic abuse: statistics recorded by the police in Scotland - 2021/22 - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/domestic-abuse-recorded-police-scotland-2021-22/documents/)

At a conservative estimate of 5 minutes per record, this equates to over 5,400 hours of work to provide just that single year of information requested. The full 10 year period would obviously take much longer to produce.

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.

Whilst I would normally suggested a reduced timescale is considered, in this case even a single year would vastly exceed the cost threshold under the Act and as such I do not believe there is a way to complete your request within cost, even if refined.

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.