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Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0754  
Date: 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

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 <https://www.scotland.police.uk/> or on the COPFS website on <http://www.copfs.gov.uk/>.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

**I'm writing to request any reports of domestic violence from 2020-current day, and police reports from women suffering domestic violence.**

Please be advised that the requested information is publicly available.

As such, in terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought. Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

(a) states that it holds the information,

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- (b) states that it is claiming an exemption,
- (c) specifies the exemption in question and
- (d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at Section 25(1) of the Act - information otherwise accessible:

“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under Section 1(1) is exempt information”

I can confirm that the information requested is available through our disclosure log. I have attached a direct link to the relevant document below. I would in particular draw your attention to the spreadsheet titled attachment 01 and to table 3 which provides a gender breakdown of domestic abuse victims from 2016 to 2021:

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/2022/march/22-0267-crime-statistics-domestic-honour-based-abuse-by-gender-ethnicity-5-years/>

**Also, any records of police protocol while dealing with femicide and domestic violence instances would be great.**

In regards to femicide, I can confirm that Police Scotland do not use the categorisation of ‘femicide’ for any crime. We therefore do not have a specific protocol for femicide.

Accordingly under Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 I must inform you that we do not hold the information you have requested.

To be of some assistance however, please find a link below to our Crime Investigation Standard Operating Procedures which contains information on how crime investigations in general are dealt with.

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/uwwcamlx/crime-investigation-sop.pdf>

In regards to domestic abuse, please find a link below to our Domestic Abuse Investigation Standard Operating Procedure.

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/fuaflohy/domestic-abuse-investigation-sop.pdf>

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management 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, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

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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.