| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 24-1153Responded to: xx June 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

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 can be accessed online - [What is domestic abuse? - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-information/domestic-abuse/what-is-domestic-abuse/).

## Of the reported domestic abuse incidents between 2019-2024 how many of the victims were pregnant? Please give a yearly breakdown.

Unfortunately, I am unable to provide the data that 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.

To explain, domestic abuse incidents involving pregnancy are recorded on the interim Vulnerable Persons Database (iVPD) with a ‘pregnancy’ marker.

The marker however relates to the incident, rather than to a specific person involved, therefore there is no simple way of determining whether it was the victim or perpetrator that was pregnant at the time of the incident.

The only way to answer your question therefore would be to individually examine every potentially relevant crime report, to determine whether the pregnancy marker referred to the victim, or not.

Given the number of incidents, such an exercise would exceed the cost limitations of the Act.

By way of assistance, the table below details recorded domestic abuse incidents with a pregnancy marker between 1st January 2019 and 31st March 2024.

Please note that domestic abuse incidents recorded by Police Scotland are only recorded within the iVPD with a pregnancy marker in circumstances where the pregnancy was known of and disclosed to the police.

If a victim chooses not to disclose to the police that they are pregnant then this will not be recorded.

Therefore, the data shown in the table is not a comprehensive understanding of the total numbers of pregnant victims of domestic abuse.

Table 1 - Recorded domestic abuse incidents involving known and disclosed pregnancy - 1st January 2019 - 31st March 2024.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Domestic Abuse Incidents** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** |
| With a pregnancy marker | 1438 | 1473 | 1444 | 1296 | 1323 | 331 |

All data are provisional and should be treated as management information.
All data were extracted from Police Scotland systems and are correct as at 9 May 2024.
The data was extracted using the incident's raised date and extracted from iVPD by selecting Domestic Incidents.
Incident Nominals with a 'Pregnancy'/'Pregnancy (Unborn Child)' marker recorded within the 'Incident Marker' or the 'At Risk' table were identified.
The Domestic Incidents with a 'Pregnancy' marker from either of the 2 identified tables (Incident Markers, At Risk) were then selected and displayed within Table 1.

Please note, more than one marker can be selected from the 'Incident Marker' table; and more than one marker can be selected from the 'At Risk' table; and more than one marker can be selected from the 'Incident Marker' table.
Table 1 is a count of unique domestic incidents, not markers.

## 2. Of those reported incidents…

## how many of those resulted in the perpetrator being charged with an offence? Please give a yearly breakdown and if within cost limits a breakdown of offence types.

## In relation to question 2, of these, what was the gender, and if possible, age and geographic makeup of the suspected perpetrators.

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

To explain, each report would have to be individually examined to determine whether an individual was charged and if so, extract their personal details and what the offence was.

Notwithstanding, to be of assistance, I have provided the number of detected offences broken down into years.

Detected crimes are those where an accused has been identified and there exists a sufficiency of evidence under Scots Law to justify consideration of criminal proceedings.

I would ask you to note the caveats below the table, but I would draw your particular attention to the fact that these statistics relate to any domestic incident where a pregnancy marker is attached to the incident and a crime is attached.

As the marker is applied to the incident and not the crime, the marker may not be specifically relevant to the crime.

In addition, please note that the numbers provided below are based on the recorded incidents of domestic abuse provided in question 1 therefore they do not give a fully comprehensive overview of the total amount of detected crimes due to this number being determined by only what has been disclosed to Police Scotland regarding whether pregnancy is present.

Table 2. Detected domestic abuse crime linked to a domestic abuse incident with a pregnancy marker - 1st January 2019 - 31st March 2024.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Detected Domestic Abuse Crimes** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** |
| Linked to Domestic Incidents with pregnancy marker | 709 | 812 | 687 | 640 | 595 | 123 |

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information.
All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 9th May 2024.
1. The data was extracted using the incident's created date and extracted from iVPD by selecting Domestic Incidents. Incident Nominals with a 'Pregnancy'/'Pregnancy (Unborn Child)' marker recorded within the 'Incident Marker' or the 'At Risk' table were identified. The Domestic Incidents with a 'Pregnancy' marker from either of the 2 identified tables (Incident Markers, At Risk) were then selected.
2. Please note, more than one marker can be selected from the 'Incident Marker' table; and more than one marker can be selected from the 'At Risk' table; and more than one marker can be selected from the 'Incident Marker' table. Table 1 is a count of unique domestic incidents, not markers.
3. Detected domestic crimes were then extracted from iVPD using the detected date. Detected domestic crimes linked to the incidents identified in Table 1 were then selected. Please note, Table 2 is a count of detected domestic crimes linked to these incidents.
4. Please note, each record will need to be read to confirm the circumstances relating to the domestic incident.
5. Please note, the markers are not always populated.

Police Scotland does not retain any information for statistical purposes once a record has been weeded from iVPD. When a record is weeded, it is removed from the system, and there is no retention of data outside the weeding and retention policy. Please note, the weeding and retention policy states that if a person is recorded as "no concern / not applicable" then this will only be retained for 6 months.

Please note that these data are collated from the Police Scotland iVPD system, which has an automated weeding and retention policy built on to it.
A copy of the retention policy is available on the Police Scotland internet site.

## If you do not currently keep such statistics on domestic violence in pregnancy, what is the reason for this?

The Domestic Abuse Questions are our way of making a fast and accurate assessment of how much risk there is to a victim.

These are asked of every victim at every domestic abuse incident and ask about pregnancy.

However, if a victim chooses not to disclose to the police that they are pregnant, then that will not be recorded.

Some victims may choose not to answer these questions.

Where it is known that a victim is pregnant this is recorded within the iVPD.

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.