| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2952  Responded to: 29th December 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## How many females aged 13 and over have been killed in circumstances in which man/men are/were the primary suspect? (If possible, list by victims name, age and if charged) from the period of 2019 to 2023.

For clarification purposes, I would ask that you first note the following information.

Unresolved Homicides:

Unresolved homicides are considered those where:

(a) No suspect has been identified

(b) A suspect has been identified but not charged (no proceedings)

(c) A suspect has been identified and charged but not placed on petition (no proceedings)

(d) A suspect has appeared on petition but no indictment served due to there being considered an insufficiency of evidence at that time (no proceedings)

(e) A suspect has been indicted and a trial concluded which has resulted in an acquittal (Not Guilty/Not Proven)

(f) A suspect has been convicted but acquitted on appeal and no fresh prosecution has been authorised by the Appeal Court (Not Guilty)

(g) A suspect has committed suicide prior to trial and no other person is being sought in connection with the case.

Furthermore many homicides (particularly those committed during the last few years during the Covid 19 pandemic) are still awaiting court proceedings to bring them to a legal conclusion. In this regard Police Scotland categorise and record these homicides as **unresolved**.

In response to this question, I can advise that between 01 January 2019 and 27 November 2023, there are 57 homicides recorded where a female over the age of 13 has been identified as the victim and where a male has been identified as the perpetrator.

30 are resolved and 27 of these remain unresolved.

In regards to whether someone has been charged, for the 30 resolved cases I can confirm that someone has been charged on each occasions.

For the remaining 27 unresolved cases, it has always been the case that limited information regarding homicides may be disclosed as part of an investigative strategy and decisions to disclose this level of detail are taken by the Senior Investigating Officer in consultation with the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service.

It is however considered that disclosure of some of the requested information under the Act would be detrimental to any ongoing investigations as it is essential that information is disclosed in the correct manner to ensure that neither the investigations nor the potential for any proceedings to be brought against an individual are put at risk.

Taking all of the above into account, in terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with information relating to the circumstances of the homicide/MO. 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,

(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. The exemptions that I consider to be applicable to the information requested by you are as follows:

**Section 34(1)(b) - Investigations**

**Section 35(1)(a)&(b) - Law enforcement**

**Section 39(1) - Health & Safety**

Such information is exempt if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to prejudice substantially the prevention or detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

**Public Interest Test**

Whilst I appreciate that there is a degree of interest in the release of such information, what is of interest to the public is not necessarily in the public interest. The investigation of serious crimes such as homicide and ultimately, bringing those offenders to justice must always take precedence.

Accountability and transparency may favour disclosure of the information but conversely would be detrimental to ongoing investigations, and ultimately to the public at large.

It is essential that information pertaining to certain investigations is disclosed at the correct time, and only where appropriate, to ensure that neither the investigation nor the potential for proceedings to be brought against an individual are put at risk.

Homicides are, by their very nature, extensively covered in the media and you may be able to further information by searching local media reports.

Equally, if it is of interest we publish information/ appeals regarding ongoing investigations on our website (although you should note that these will not all relate to homicides) at:

[What's Happening - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/)

In summary, the call for transparency cannot outweigh the importance of the police maintaining confidentiality while an investigation or legal proceedings are still ongoing.

Therefore, the balance lies in withholding the information requested and accordingly, I have decided to maintain the exemption.

In regards to the name and age of the victim, please find the requested details below.

| **Name** | **Age** |
| --- | --- |
| Aimee Jane Cannon | 26 |
| Alexes Margaret Gillan | 64 |
| Alice Scotland Doig Farquharson | 56 |
| Amanda Mcalear | 50 |
| Amber Gibson | 16 |
| Amy Rose Wilson | 27 |
| Ann Drummond | 47 |
| Annie Jane Temple | 97 |
| Bennylynn Burke | 25 |
| Carol Jane Milne | 59 |
| Catherine Pryde | 74 |
| Catherine Stewart | 54 |
| Cerys Reeve | 14 |
| Charmaine O'Donnell | 25 |
| Claire Inglis | 28 |
| Danielle Grace Davidson | 33 |
| Darrel Buchanan | 37 |
| Dawn Trusler | 45 |
| Diane Nichol | 57 |
| Elizabeth Dolina Watson | 58 |
| Elizabeth Mcshane | 39 |
| Emma Baillie | 26 |
| Emma Faulds | 39 |
| Emma Robertson | 39 |
| Esther Brown | 67 |
| Fawziyiah Javed | 31 |
| Jacqueline Anne Grant | 54 |
| Jacqueline Kerr | 54 |
| Jadwiga Szczygielska | 77 |
| Jane Fitzpatrick | 48 |
| Jane Malcolm | 84 |
| Jill Louise Barclay | 47 |
| Jolanta Mowinski | 59 |
| Kimberli Sweeney | 27 |
| Kirsty Robertson | 29 |
| Lauren Wilson | 34 |
| Louise Aitchison | 33 |
| Mairi Doherty | 41 |
| Marelle Sturrock | 35 |
| Margaret Grant | 79 |
| Margaret Robertson | 54 |
| Mary Fell | 73 |
| Mary Haley | 75 |
| Maureen Ann Kidd | 74 |
| Michelle Lizanec | 44 |
| Morag Carmichael | 66 |
| Neomi Smith | 23 |
| Nicola Christine Kirk | 45 |
| Nicole Anderson | 24 |
| Patricia Bitters | 84 |
| Rebecca Tollan | 24 |
| Sherry Margaret Bruce | 58 |
| Stacey Warnock | 51 |
| Susan Turner | 41 |
| Tracey Walker | 40 |
| Valerie Richardson | 49 |
| Yvonne Barr | 47 |

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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) 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.