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Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2463
Date: 29th November 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.

- **How many times have Police Scotland used the “power to tell” under the Disclosure Scheme from 2018 – present? Please provide an annual breakdown.**

Following a clarification request you confirmed the following:

I was hoping to find out (1) how many individuals have requested information on their partners and (2) how many disclosures have been made under the “Power to Tell” option? From 2018 – present, please break this down annually.

On the 1st October 2015, Police Scotland introduced the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS). DSDAS aims to prevent domestic abuse by empowering

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people with the **right to ask** (RTA) about the background of their partner, potential partner or someone who is in a relationship with someone they know, when there is a concern that the individual may be abusive. The scheme enables potential victims to make an informed choice on whether to continue their relationship, and provides further help and support to assist the potential victim when making that choice.

DSDAS also provides the **power to tell** (PTT) where Police Scotland receives information or intelligence that domestic abuse may impact upon the safety of a victim or potential victim.

The DSDAS database has been developed to record all applications into the scheme, document their progression and record decision making. The DSDAS database is a dynamic database which is constantly being updated and changed. Duplicate applications are often submitted for persons potentially at risk.

Every application received by Police Scotland is assessed to confirm that it meets the criteria for disclosure. Once an application has been submitted further information may come to light meaning that the application is no longer appropriate, for example if the applicant is no longer in a relationship with that person. In this instance the application will not be progressed further. Additionally in such circumstances where there is no information to disclose the application will not progress to a disclosure. In this instance the applicant will be informed.

Please find the requested information in the table below. I would ask you to note the caveats provided below.

Year	PTT Applications	PTT Disclosures
01/01/18 – 31/12/18	935	640
01/01/19 – 31/12/19	1672	1071
01/01/20 – 31/12/20	2395	1712
01/01/21 – 31/12/21	2748	1923
01/01/22 – 23/11/22	2662	1715

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data has been extracted from the Police Scotland DSDAS database and are correct as of 23rd November 2022

Full details of the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) are available on the Police Scotland website on the following link;

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-information/domestic-abuse/disclosure-scheme-for-domestic-abuse-scotland/>

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.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalrnarnock, 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 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.