

OFFICIAL

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0267
Date: 30th March 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 am looking for information relating to the ethnicity and gender of people reporting domestic abuse and honour-based violence in Scotland, over the last 5 years.

The term Honour Based Violence (HBV) was previously used nationally by Police Scotland however in recognition of the limitations that the term ‘violence’ may suggest and in alignment with the national definition of domestic abuse, Police Scotland now use the term Honour Based Abuse (HBA).

The term Honour Based Abuse (HBA) embraces a variety of incidents or crimes including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, abduction, forced marriage, imprisonment and murder (not an exhaustive list), where the individual, their family or community is

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

punished for actually, or allegedly, undermining what the family or community believes to be the correct code of behaviour and which could bring shame to the family or community

Following a clarification request, you confirmed that something similar to a previous response (linked below) we had issued but for the years 2016-2021 and including honour-based abuse would be acceptable.

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/2021/march/21-0060-crime-stats-domestic-victims-by-gender-age-ethnicity-division-2020/>

In regards to statistics on domestic abuse, please find the requested information in the attached spreadsheet. I would ask you to note the caveats below each data table.

In regards to honour-based abuse 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 specific crime classification for Honour Based Abuse and so we are unable to retrieve specific crimes that relate to this. Our system does contain a marker for concern reports that relate to Honour Based Abuse but a manual review of each concern report would be required to confirm the details of the victim and determine the circumstances.

In this case 844 concern reports would need to be manually checked. At a conservative estimate of 5 minutes per report, this equates to over 70 hours of work to provide the information requested.

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.

You may wish submit a refined request for a shorter time period such as the most recent year which may allow some information to be provided.

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 or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

OFFICIAL

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.