| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-2671  Responded to: 8 November 2024 |
| --- | --- |

Prior to responding to your information request I would ask that you note that protecting the public is a top priority for Police Scotland. In Scotland Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), provides a comprehensive response to a complex issue, using professional assessment and management to properly target resources at those who pose a risk to the public.

Police Scotland works in partnership with a number of agencies through MAPPA to ensure that all Registered Sex Offenders are robustly managed within the community. While we can never eliminate risk entirely, we want to reassure communities that all reasonable steps are being taken to protect them.

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1. The number of applications you received to be removed from the sex offenders register in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 so far?

## 2. How many of these were approved?

## 3. What were the offences committed by those whose applications were approved?

## 4. Have any of those who submitted successful applications reoffended?

Your request has been interpreted as seeking information around the number of Registered Sex Offenders (RSOs) who have submitted an application for review of their indefinite sex offender notification requirements.

In Scotland, it is the responsibility of the Police to review indefinite notification requirements and as such there is no requirement for an individual to make an application.

Therefore, the information sought is not held by Police Scotland. In terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that information is not held.

By way of explanation, persons subject to notification requirements for an indefinite period (often referred to as lifetime registration) are subject to a review within defined timescales as prescribed by the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Remedial) (Scotland) Order 2011 which came into force on 28 January 2011.

As per this legislation every person subject to the notification requirements of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 in Scotland will be subject to a review within:

• if relevant person was aged 18 or over on the relevant date (date of conviction disregarding any time spent imprisoned / detained in hospital / or outside the UK before the relevant person first notified information to the police as listed within the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Remedial) (Scotland) Order 2011), 15 years after that date, or

• for persons aged under 18 years of age on the relevant date (date of conviction disregarding any time spent imprisoned / detained in hospital / or outside the UK before the relevant person first notified information to the police as listed within the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Remedial) (Scotland) Order 2011) 8 years after that date.

Following review, the Chief Constable must either:

• make a notification continuation order in respect of the person, making that person subject to the notification requirements for a fixed period, or

• notify the person they cease to be subject to the notification requirements of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

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.