| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-0755  Responded to: 27 May 2025 |
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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”

Please note that the definition of Domestic abuse in Scotland differs from the definition of Domestic Violence in England and Wales which includes wider familial abuse e.g. from parents or children etc.

**I'm looking into the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) and am wanting to know the following:**

1. **How many applications to the scheme have been made each year since it was launched in 2015?**

2015/16 – 606

2016/17 – 960

2017/18 – 1,242

2018/19 – 1,596

2019/20 – 2,648

2020/21 – 3,525

2021/22 – 3,962

2022/23 – 4,535

2023/24 – 5,589

2024/25 – 7,296

1. **How many of these applications resulted in a disclosure being made?**

Due to our weeding and retention policies, I must advise that data prior to 26/05/2019 is no longer held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

We can, however, provide data from 26/05/2019.

2019/20 – 1,231

2020/21 – 2,161

2021/22 – 2,355

2022/23 – 2,672

2023/24 – 3,218

2024/25 – 3,973

1. **The average processing time for the scheme is recorded as being 45 days:**
   1. **How many of these applications took longer than 45 days?**
   2. **How many of these applications took less than 45 days?**

As previously stated, due to our weeding and retention policies, I must advise that data prior to 26/05/2019 is no longer held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

We can, however, provide data from 26/05/2019.

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| **Financial year** | **Total Applications over 45 days.** | **Total Applications Under 45 Days** |
| 2019/20 | 846 | 1,402 |
| 2020/21 | 655 | 2,870 |
| 2021/22 | 361 | 3,601 |
| 2022/23 | 320 | 4,215 |
| 2023/24 | 274 | 5,315 |
| 2024/25 | 201 | 7,095 |

If you require any further assistance, please contact us quoting the reference above. As such, this is an exercise which would exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

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](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) 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.