| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-1220Responded to: 14 May 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Unfortunately I can not find detailed dataset about human trafficking in Scotland from past 10-15 years. I am writing to make a request for information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, looking for any data covering that field if that is possible. Any datasets in machine-readable format .xls or .cvs would be very helpful and appreciated. More precisely I am looking for datasets:**

* **Number of recorded human trafficking cases, broken down by year, from approximately 2005 to the most recent available**
* **Geographic breakdown of these cases (e.g., by local authority area or police division).**

Data is available from 2016, which is consistent with the introduction of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015.

Data prior to 2016 is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

The following crime classifications are underpinned by the above-mentioned Act:

* Slavery or Forced Labour
* Human Organ Offences
* Breach of Trafficking & Exploitation Order

Table 1 below details recorded Human Trafficking related crimes by Police Division from January 2016 to April 2025.

* **Demographic information about victims, where available (age range, gender, nationality)**
* **Types of exploitation involved (e.g., sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, criminal exploitation, etc.)**
* **Any information on referrals to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) linked to these cases.**
* **If available, data on victim support services or outcomes (e.g., whether victims were safeguarded or referred to services)**

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

By way of explanation, each crime record would have to be manually reviewed to obtain the information sought.As such, this is an exercise which would exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

* **Number of arrests, charges, and convictions related to these cases, the number of raids on houses.**

The Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 removed the separate concepts of arrest and detention and replaced them with a power of arrest without warrant - where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting a person has committed, or is committing, an offence.

When a person is arrested, a statement of arrest should be read over as soon as reasonably practicable, and details recorded in the arresting officer’s notebook.

A person is ‘Not Officially Accused’ (a suspect) when arrested *and* *not* cautioned and charged. They are ‘Officially Accused’ once arrested *and* cautioned and charged.

If conveyed to a police station, the arrested person will have their details recorded in our National Custody System.

There are situations however whereby a person must be released from police custody prior to their arrival at a police station - effectively they are ‘de-arrested’ - where the reasonable grounds for suspicion no longer exist. In those circumstances, the details of an arrested person are not held electronically.

As a result, we are unfortunately unable to collate comprehensivearrest data, as case by case assessment of all officer notebooks would be required - in addition to the partialarrest data held in the National Custody System.

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request and I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

For the reasons outlined above, Police Scotland do not collate data on arrests and data is compiled and published instead based on recorded and detected crimes - [Crime data](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/).

Detected crimes are those where an accused has been identified and there exists a sufficiency of evidence under Scots Law to justify consideration of criminal proceedings.

Table 2 below details detectedHuman Trafficking related crimes by Police Division from January 2016 to April 2025.

Police Scotland does not hold criminal conviction/ prosecution data and section 17 of the Act therefore applies. You may wish to contact the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) and/ or the Scottish Courts Service.

Regarding data on home raids,unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance. By way of explanation, each crime record would have to be manually reviewed for relevance.

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 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 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.

*Table 1: Recorded Human Trafficking related crimes by Police Division – calendar year, January 2016 – April 2025*

|  | **Division** |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Crime classification** | **Year** | **A**  | **D**  | **N**  | **C**  | **E**  | **J**  | **P**  | **G**  | **U** | **Q** | **L**  | **K**  | **V**  | **Total** |
| **Slavery or Forced Labour** | 2016 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 8 |
|   | 2017 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 3 | 3 | 27 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 59 |
|   | 2018 | 7 | 13 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 43 | 2 | 15 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 97 |
|   | 2019 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 18 | 13 | 8 | 78 | 8 | 18 | 13 | 17 | 2 | 199 |
|   | 2020 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 24 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 11 | 1 | 84 |
|   | 2021 | 2 | 15 | 0 | 4 | 22 | 7 | 5 | 23 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 2 | 109 |
|   | 2022 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 14 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 66 |
|   | 2023 | 6 | 9 | 9 | 4 | 19 | 11 | 4 | 25 | 4 | 11 | 6 | 15 | 3 | 126 |
|   | 2024 | 2 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 27 | 15 | 4 | 38 | 11 | 8 | 4 | 13 | 2 | 144 |
|   | 2025 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 16 | 4 | 0 | 11 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 54 |
| **Human Organ Offences** | 2016 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|   | 2017 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|   | 2018 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
|   | 2019 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|   | 2020 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|   | 2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|   | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|   | 2023 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|   | 2024 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|   | 2025 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| **Breach of Trafficking & Exploitation Order** | 2016 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|   | 2017 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
|   | 2018 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
|   | 2019 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|   | 2020 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
|   | 2021 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
|   | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
|   | 2023 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
|   | 2024 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|   | 2025 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

*Table 2: Detected Human Trafficking related crimes by Police Division – calendar year, January 2016 – April 2025*

|  | **Division** |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Crime classification** | **Year** | **A**  | **D**  | **N**  | **C**  | **E**  | **J**  | **P**  | **G**  | **U**  | **Q**  | **L**  | **K**  | **V**  | **Total** |
| **101110 - Slavery or Forced Labour** | 2016 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|   | 2017 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
|   | 2018 | 6 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20 |
|   | 2019 | 0 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 14 |
|   | 2020 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 28 |
|   | 2021 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 23 |
|   | 2022 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15 |
|   | 2023 | 6 | 10 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 36 |
|   | 2024 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 13 |
|   | 2025 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 10 |
| **101111 - Human Organ Offences** | 2016 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|   | 2017 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|   | 2018 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|   | 2019 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|   | 2020 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|   | 2021 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|   | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|   | 2023 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|   | 2024 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|   | 2025 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **503923 - Breach of Trafficking & Exploitation Order** | 2016 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|   | 2017 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|   | 2018 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|   | 2019 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|   | 2020 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
|   | 2021 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
|   | 2022 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
|   | 2023 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
|   | 2024 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|   | 2025 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information.
Data was extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 9/5/2025.
Recorded crime data extracted from National Unifi, via SEB-P, and is based on the date that the crime was recorded.
Detected crime data extracted from National Unifi, via SEB-P, and is based on the date that the crime was detected.