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Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1362
Date: 29th July 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.

In relation to the years - April 2020-March 2021 and April 2021- March 2022. I require the following information,

The number of domestic abuse crimes and the number of domestic abuse related incidents recorded by Police Scotland involving victims in age categories 65-74 and 75+

A breakdown of the gender of the victims identified above.

A breakdown of the relationship of victim to principal suspect for each victim identified above.

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In response to your request, 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, the Police Scotland database used for recording domestic abuse victim status is called the Vulnerable Person Database. Unfortunately, there is no straightforward method to extract the victim data required directly from incidents and crimes. In order to provide the number of victims within the age bracket requested, each domestic abuse incident and each domestic abuse recorded crime would need to be manually examined. I can advise that regarding domestic abuse incidents alone for the year 2020/2021 there are 64,191 recorded incidents. With a conservative estimate of 5 minutes per record this would greatly exceed the time threshold set out within the Act.

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.

Should you decide to significantly reduce the time frame requested it may be possible to extract the data you require.

However, to be of assistance I have provided the following tables below.

The tables provide a figure for the number of domestic abuse related incidents, recorded domestic crimes and a count of the number of domestic abuse incident nominal victims who are aged within the age bracket requested.

It should be noted that incident nominal victims are those categorised as 'Victim' and/or 'Subject of Concern' and/or 'Non-Vulnerable Victim'. It is not possible to say which relate to incidents and which relate to crimes without a manual review of each incident. These figures should therefore be seen as standalone from the domestic abuse incidents and crimes noted in tables 1 and 2.

Incident nominal victims have been broken down by gender and relationship of the victim to the suspect.

I would ask that you carefully note the caveats provided below each data table.

Table 1 - Domestic Incidents, Police Scotland ¹		
Period: 1st April 2020 - 31st March 2022 (Financial Years)		
	2020/21	2021/22
Domestic Incidents	64,191	63,088

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 29th June 2022.

1. The data was extracted using the incident's raised date and extracted from iVPD.

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Police Scotland does not retain any information for statistical purposes once a record has been weeded from iVPD. When a record is weeded, it is removed from the system, and there is no retention of data outside the weeding and retention policy. Please note, the weeding and retention policy states that if a person is recorded as "no concern / not applicable" then this will only be retained for 6 months

Please note that these data are collated from the Police Scotland iVPD system, which has an automated weeding and retention policy built on to it. A copy of the retention policy is available on the Police Scotland internet site (<https://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/2021/june/21-1479-sop-records-retention/>).

Table 2 - Recorded Domestic Crimes, Police Scotland ¹		
Period: 1st April 2020 - 31st March 2022 (Financial Years)		
	2020/21	2021/22
Domestic Crimes	41,469	40,676

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 29th June 2022.

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The information below is not indicative of the number of domestic abuse incidents or crimes. This table provides the number of victims within the age groups requested.

Table 3 - Recorded Domestic Abuse Incident Nominal Victims (Age 65 and Over at Time of Incident), Police Scotland ^{1,2,3}		
Period: 1st April 2020 - 31st March 2022 (Financial Years)		
Age Group	2020/21	2021/22
65-74	802	832
75 and over	305	331
TOTAL	1,107	1,163

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1. The data was extracted using the incident's raised date and extracted from iVPD.

2. Domestic Incident Nominal Victims include incident nominals recorded as 'Victim' and/or 'Subject of Concern' and/or 'Non-Vulnerable Victim'.

3. Please note, the age is calculated based on the difference between the incident nominals Date of Birth, and the 'Date of the Incident'. Police Scotland does not retain any information for statistical purposes once a record has been weeded from iVPD. When a record is weeded, it is removed from the system, and there is no retention of data outside the weeding and retention policy. Please note, the weeding and retention policy states that if a person is recorded as "no concern / not applicable" then this will only be retained for 6 months

Please note that these data are collated from the Police Scotland iVPD system, which has an automated weeding and retention policy built on to it. A copy of the retention policy is available on the Police Scotland internet site (<https://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/2021/june/21-1479-sop-records-retention/>).

Please note table 4 and 5 are a breakdown of the data in table 3 as per your request.

Table 4 - Recorded Domestic Abuse Incident Nominal Victims (Broken by Gender), Police Scotland ^{1,2}		
Period: 1st April 2020 - 31st March 2022 (Financial Years)		
Gender	2020/21	2021/22
Female	671	701
Male	435	462
Unknown	1	0
TOTAL	1,107	1,163

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Table 5 - Recorded Domestic Abuse Incident Nominal Victims (Broken by Relationship to Perpetrator), Police Scotland ^{1,2}		
Period: 1st April 2020 - 31st March 2022 (Financial Years)		
Gender	2020/21	2021/22
Spouse/Civil Partners	586	583
Co-habitee	161	165
Partner	128	143
Ex-Spouse/Civil Partner	40	59
Ex-partner	178	192
Other	11	16
Relationship not recorded	3	5
TOTAL	1,107	1,163

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2. Domestic Incident Nominal Victims include incident nominals recorded as 'Victim' and/or 'Subject of Concern' and/or 'Non-Vulnerable Victim'.

Police Scotland does not retain any information for statistical purposes once a record has been weeded from iVPD. When a record is weeded, it is removed from the system, and there is no retention of data outside the weeding and retention policy. Please note, the weeding and retention policy states that if a person is recorded as "no concern / not applicable" then this will only be retained for 6 months

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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, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

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.

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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.