| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-2322  Responded to: 05 August 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Could I please request the following information on the Police Scotland Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS).

## For the year 2025 so far, could I please request the following information on the DVDS:

## The number of DVDS applications received.

## The number of disclosures made.

## The number of applications that did not result in disclosure.

## For each year from 2020 to 2025 can you tell me average number of calendar days taken to make a DVDS disclosure, calculated from the date of application to the date of disclosure (successful applications only). Can you please tell the average for each year and present in a table format.

## For the year 2025 so far, could I please request the following information Right to Ask applications:

## The number of RTA applications received.

## The number of RTA disclosures made.

## For each year from 2020 to 2025 can you tell me the average number of calendar days taken to make a RTA disclosure, calculated from the date of application to the date of disclosure (successful applications only). Can you please tell the average for each year and present in a table format.

## For the year 2025 so far, could I please request the following information Power to tell applications:

## The number of PTT applications received.

## The number of PTT disclosures made.

## For each year from 2020 to 2025 can you tell me the average number of calendar days taken to make a PTT disclosure, calculated from the date of application to the date of disclosure (successful applications only). Can you please tell the average for each year and present in a table format.

## Final question: For all average time questions in this FOI, can you please include the longest time for each application section and shortest.

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.

The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS), known as ‘Clare’s Law’ was introduced in England and Wales in March 2014.

The DVDS was not introduced in Scotland.

As such, the information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

On 1 October 2015, Police Scotland introduced the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS).

DSDAS aims to prevent domestic abuse by empowering people with the **Right to Ask** **(RTA)** about the background of their partner, or someone who is in a relationship with someone they know, when there is a concern that the individual may be abusive.

The scheme enables potential victims to make an informed choice on whether to continue their relationship and provides further help and support to assist the potential victim when making that choice.

DSDAS also provides the **Power to Tell (PTT)** where Police Scotland receives information or intelligence that domestic abuse may impact upon the safety of a victim or potential victim.

The DSDAS database is a dynamic database which is constantly being updated and changed. Every application received by Police Scotland is assessed to confirm that it meets the criteria for disclosure.

Once an application has been submitted further information may come to light meaning that the application is no longer appropriate, for example if the applicant is no longer in a relationship with that person.

In this instance the application will not be progressed further.

Additionally, in such circumstances where there is no information to disclose, the application will not progress to a disclosure. In this instance the applicant will be informed.

Each potential disclosure is subject to multi-agency discussion, with at least two partner agencies. There, those applications that are agreed to be lawful, necessary and proportionate proceed to disclosure.

More information about the scheme and its processes can be found on the Police Scotland website here - [Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-information/domestic-abuse/disclosure-scheme-for-domestic-abuse-scotland/).

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](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.