| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-3291  Responded to: 30 January 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding.

## Do you have a stat of police officers (not office staff) that were employed in 2000 and now.

In terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought. Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

(a) states that it holds the information,

(b) states that it is claiming an exemption,

(c) specifies the exemption in question and

(d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at Section 25(1) of the Act - information otherwise accessible:

“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under Section 1(1) is exempt information”

To be of assistance, I have attached a link below which provides the information you have requested.

<https://webarchive.nrscotland.gov.uk/20200114065713/https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PublicationPoliceStrength>

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/police-scotland-officer-numbers/>

## Registered sex offenders in Scotland broken down into male, female and identifying as female.

An individual who has received a conviction or finding in respect of a specified offence under Schedule 3 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 is automatically subject to the Notification Requirements of Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

Following conviction, the individual, referred to as a RSO must attend a Prescribed Police Station within 3 days of either conviction for the offence which placed them on “the register” or of being released from custody following this conviction and provide notifiable information.  In addition, the individual is required to attend a Prescribed Police Station should any of this notifiable information change.  There is also a requirement for a periodic (annual) notification by the individual.  All the relevant requirements are set out in the aforementioned legislation.

The individuals’ sex and gender identity are not notifiable information as set out in the legislation and as such, a RSO does not need to provide Police Scotland with confirmation of their sex or gender identity.

Whilst Police Scotland does record whether an RSO is a male or female on our ViSOR (Violent and Sex Offender Register) system and there is a section for recording the gender identity, it is not possible to conduct a search which would automatically retrieve a reliable breakdown of a nominal identifying as female.

As of 10th January 2024 there were 7,158 RSO’s recorded on the ViSOR system in Scotland.  Of these 7,158 nominals, 7,088 are recorded as male and 70 as female.  Please note that as ViSOR is a dynamic system, these figures are only correct at the date and time of the search.

The only way to provide you with an accurate response would be to individually examine the records for each RSO in Scotland to establish whether they have disclosed their gender identity.

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.

Please note that statistics on the number of RSOs within Scotland, broken down by division and by postcode area are publicly available on our website via the below link:- [Registered Sex Offender (RSO) Numbers - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/specialist-crime-division/sex-offender-policing-units/registered-sex-offender-rso-information/).

## How many officers have been moved into new roles of investigating potential hate crimes, and how this has impacted other services.

## For example garden furniture theft without cc cameras.

In terms of section 17 of the Act, the information sought is not held by Police Scotland.

By way of explanation, we do not currently have any dedicated officers who deal solely with Hate Crime and its investigation.

We do have officers with more training in relation to Hate Crime who can assist those in their investigations with any advice should it be required.

## In regards to hate crimes, and hate speech because this now curtails free speech.

## What can people actually say or write when expressing opinions on religions if writing about philosophy?

## Can you be critical of other religions?

## What can people legally say, and write about gender ideology?

In terms of section 17 of the Act, the information sought is not held by Police Scotland.

That is to say, we do not hold a comprehensive list of what people can/ cannot say or write.

You may find our [Hate Crime National Guidance](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/5yagp2ye/hate-crime-national-guidance.doc) of interest.

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.