| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-1739Responded to: 25 June 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Please can you provide me with the number of Senior Investigating Officers (SIOs) in all Major Investigation Teams within Police Scotland, broken down by division.**

To be helpful, Major Investigation Teams based around the country form part of Police Scotland’s Specialist Crime Division.

The SIOs based within these Major Investigation Teams are national/ regional resources and not specific to a particular geographical division within Police Scotland’s force area.

There are currently 29 SIOs based across the Major Investigation Teams within Specialist Crime Division.

**Please can you provide me with a figure for the number of SIO-led murder investigations there currently are, and how many SIOs are allocated to them, broken down by division.**

Based on your previous question, it is assumed that the number of SIO led murder investigations is specific to SIOs based within Major Investigation Teams.

There are a total of 66 SIO led murder investigations allocated to a total of 20 SIO’s based within Specialist Crime Division.

It should be noted due to the nature of policing; this figure is only accurate at time of disclosure.

**Please can you provide me with the highest number of murder investigations sitting with an individual SIO and in which division.**

Firstly, I must advise that disclosing the number of investigations allocated to a single SIO would not be representative of current “live” jobs.

They may have a combination of both live and unresolved cases, all at different stages of development.

Providing an overall figure will not provide an accurate representation of their workload.

It should also be noted that to identify the number of investigations a single SIO has could cause upset to victim’s family members. Disclosure may impact families as they could feel the investigation into their loved one’s death is not a priority to Police Scotland. Therefore, I must advise the information sought is held by Police Scotland, but I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the following exemptions apply:

**Section 39(1) - Health, safety and the environment**

Information is exempt information if its disclosure would or would be likely to endanger the physical or mental health or safety of an individual.

This is a non-absolute exemption and requires the application of the public interest test.

**Public Interest Test**

Public awareness would favour a disclosure as it would contribute to the public debate surrounding murder investigations and the police handling of such enquiries.

Nevertheless, it cannot be in the public interest to release information that would prejudice law enforcement or cause distress to victim’s loved ones.
I appreciate that there is a public interest in relation to murder investigations. That said, it is essential that neither investigations nor the potential for further proceedings to be brought against an individual are put at risk.
Accordingly, in this case it is assessed that the public interest lies firmly in refusing disclosure.

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.