

**OFFICIAL**

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0632  
Date: 25<sup>th</sup> March 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.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

**A full statistical breakdown including disclosure of all complaints raised by female or transgender female complainants who happen to have been falsely accused of a child sexual offence or have been a victim of sexual offence themselves detailing being targeted by the police directly or by others on behalf of the police indirectly for raising complaints against the police or any other organisation in relation to such matters or not between 8/3/2019 - 8/3/2022 at the forces own initiative or by the inducement of another.**

Our interpretation of your request outlined above is that you are seeking to be provided with the number of complaints against the police which meet the following criteria:

- They were raised between 8 March 2019 and 8 March 2022
- The complainer is recorded as female or transgender female
- The complainer is recorded as the victim and/ or accused in a sexual offence
- The nature of the complaint is that the complainer feels they are being targeted by Police Scotland, directly or indirectly, specifically because they have made complaints against the police (and/ or other organisations) previously

I regret to advise 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, whilst complaints against the police are categorised, there are no categories which would facilitate retrieval of data in relation to the incredibly specific parameters outlined in your request.

A subjective assessment of all complaints by females for the period would have to be individually assessed to determine whether they alleged the 'targeting' of an individual and thereafter, the name of the complainer for any potentially relevant complaint would have to be cross referred with a number of crime recording systems.

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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.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@scotland.pnn.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](mailto: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.

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.