| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1960  Responded to: 21 August 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1. How many missing persons incidents were recorded by the force between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023, broken down by the [19 official Census 2021 ethnic group classifications](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk%2Fstyle-guide%2Fethnic-groups&data=05%7C01%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7C2df0099577e847e3d04d08db935e27d3%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638265804833526910%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=P%2B2%2FpD6Jms%2FPDpK26Z%2FsFSCYuLANpVGgSrtc5sSRaVc%3D&reserved=0) for the persons reported as missing?

## 2. Please provide the data on missing persons incidents for 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 and for 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 using the older ethnicity classifications that forces previously used to report to the National Crime Agency UK Missing Persons Unit.

## For question 1, for any incidents that you only know the larger ethnic group, eg you know that missing person was Asian or Asian British but don’t know whether they were Bangladeshi, Indian, Pakistani etc, please still record them in the total for the group.

In accordance with Sections 12(1) (Excessive cost of compliance) and 16(4) (Refusal of request) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (the Act), this letter represents a Refusal Notice.

By way of explanation, ethnicity is recorded however is not mandatory field and is not searchable on our National Missing Persons Application.

To provide the requested information we would need to physically examine each and every form. I would estimate it would take approximately 7 mins per record to complete this task. Looking at high volumes of data, for the smallest time frame contained within this FOI, April 22 – March 23, a total of 17,944 records would require to be examined which would take a total of 2,093 hours to complete. This task would take in excess of the 40 hour and £600 cost limit prescribed by the Scottish Ministers.

Whilst I would normally suggest a reduced timescale in order that some information could be provided, as just a single year vastly exceeds the cost threshold, I do not believe this is possible in this case.

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.