| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-0268  Responded to: 09 February 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1. How many crimes against a sex worker were reported to Police Scotland between 1993 and 2023? i) can these be broken down in to year, area and crime category?

## 3. How many crimes against a sex worker in Scotland remain unsolved from the years 1993-2023? i) can these be broken down in to year, area and crime category?

## 4. How many crimes against a sex worker involved a sexual offence between 1993 and 2023? i) can these be broken down by year / crime category / area?

## 5. How many crimes against a sex worker involving a sexual offence between 1993 and 2023 remain unsolved? i) can these be broken down in to year, area and crime category?

Having considered these questions in terms of the Act, I regret to inform 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, we are unable to search crime reports by the occupation of a victim at the time of offence and therefore, all potentially relevant crimes, including sexual offences would have to be researched.

Given the volume of crimes, this is an exercise which would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

You can access our published crime statistics on our website: [How we are performing - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/)

## 2. How many crimes against a sex worker resulted in successful prosecution in Scotland between 1993 and 2023?

## i) can these be broken down in to year, area and crime category?

## 6. How many crimes against a sex worker involving a sexual offence resulted in successful prosecution between 1993 and 2003?

## i) can these be broken down in to year, area and crime category?

Police Scotland does not hold prosecution and/ or conviction information and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

You may wish to contact the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscals Service (COPFS) which holds conviction information for Scotland - foi@copfs.gsi.gov.uk

## 7. How many sex workers were murdered in Scotland between 1993 and 2023?

## i) can these be broken down by year and area?

## 8. How many sex workers, reported as murdered between 1993 and 2003, remain unsolved?

## i) can these be broken down by year and area?

## 9. How many murder investigations, involving a sex workers as a victim, resulted in a successful prosecution between 1993 and 200?

## i) can these be broken down by year and area?

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 34(1)(b) - Investigations

Section 39(1) - Endangerment to mental health

Such information about victims is considered highly sensitive and it is assessed that given the relatively low numbers involved, the breakdown sought, by year and area, is sufficiently detailed that individual cases could be identified.

In some cases, depending on the circumstances, the fact that a victim was a sex worker will become public knowledge during the course of an investigation.

This is not however true of all cases, and it is assessed that disclosure would therefore have a detrimental affect on the mental health of bereaved families, seeing their loved one subject to speculation whether it be locally or in the media etc.

Whilst we accept there is a public interest in better informing the public as to the incidence of crime in their local area, particularly serious crime, there can be no parallel interest in divulging sensitive information about victims of crime unnecessarily.

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.