| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-0959Responded to: 9th May 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Please provide the number of cases of modern slavery and human trafficking reported to the force between January 1st 2022 and December 31st 2022. Please disaggregate data according to the following information:**

**- The crime outcome of the offences (for example, this includes but is not limited to outcomes such as 'cautioned', 'charged/summonsed', Evidential difficulties (victim does not support investigation), no suspect identified, 'Not in public interest (police), Not in public interest (CPS)' and any other outcomes recorded),**

**- The age of victims recorded, either adult (18 years or older) or child (17 years old or younger).**

**Please note that for the purposes of this request, 'victim' is a person who has reported having been a victim of this crime.**

Police Scotland receives reports of human trafficking through various routes such as reports from members of the public, reports from partner agencies, pro-active investigations by Police Scotland and referrals through the National Referral Mechanism.

As you have asked for crime outcome, I have taken your request to refer to crimes which were reported to Police Scotland.

In response to your request, 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, whilst we do hold statistics in regards to the specific crime of human trafficking, your request will also cover non-human trafficking charges which are linked to human trafficking and have a human trafficking aggravator added to the charge.

Whilst Police Scotland is moving towards a national crime recording system, this is currently not fully in place and the information requested is held on a number of legacy crime systems with varying search and recording capabilities. The only way to obtain consistent figures across Scotland would be for each crime recorded in 2022 to be manually checked to confirm whether it should be included for your request.

Due to the number of crimes Police Scotland records each year, this is a task that would take a large amount of time to complete.

Police Scotland have assessed that the £600 cost limit within the Act equates to 40 hours of work and so this part of your request would breach the cost threshold.

To be of some assistance however, I can confirm that between 1st January 2022 and 31st December 2022 a total of 113 crimes for specifically human trafficking offences were recorded. Please note that some of these crimes were non-recent events and did not occur in 2022 but were reported in 2022.

Of these 113 crimes, 50 are marked as detected and so where a charge was made.

In addition Police Scotland can be made aware of potential human trafficking incidents from referrals submitted through the Modern Slavery and Exploitation Help Line. A referral can be made by a member of the public who has concern an individual is a victim of trafficking. The referral is then forwarded onto the most relevant enforcement authority for further investigation.

Police Scotland received 71 Modern Slavery Help Line referrals in 2022. 69 related to adults and 1 related to a child.

Not all reports of potential human trafficking result in a crime report being recorded. Where there is sufficient information to record a crime in accordance with the Scottish Crime Recording Standard, a crime will be recorded. And where there are positive lines of enquiry, all reports are appropriately investigated.

Finally, you may wish to consider reviewing the Office of National Statistics who publish information on the National Referral Mechanism and Duty to Notify referrals. I have included a link to the relevant page below.

[National Referral Mechanism statistics - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-referral-mechanism-statistics)

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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/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.