| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-2957 x ref 2967Responded to: xx December 2023 |  |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I wish to make a Freedom of Information Request for the number of individuals reported missing in the Caithness & Sutherland area(s) in the last five years with a breakdown of each year.

The National Missing Persons Application (NMPA) is the system used to record missing person investigations which went live on 1 April 2019.

Prior to this time legacy police systems were used which have now been superseded and are no longer accessible for the purposes of retrieving statistical data. Accordingly I must advise you that information for the period prior to April 2019 is no longer held and Section 17 applies.

For clarity, I have interpreted the request to relate to subdivision NE which relates to all of Ross-Shire (mid-west and east), Caithness and Sutherland.

For that reason I have combined those two requests (23-2957 and 23-2967 refer) as I am unable to further subdivide the data within the cost limitations of the Act:

**1st April 2019 - 31st March 2020 – Total = 244**

**1st April 2020 - 31st March 2021 – Total = 137**

**1st April 2021 - 31st March 2022 – Total = 249**

**1st April 2022 - 31st March 2023 – Total = 276**

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.