| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-3053  Responded to: 15 December 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Through an FoI submitted to the COPFS, I am aware that there have been at least 10 people charged with crimes related to abortion since 2002 and that at least two people have been convicted. I am now requesting any information that Police Scotland hold and can share regarding:

## The number of reports made to police related to abortion, induced miscarriage or concealment of birth between 2002 and 2023

## The number of police investigations related to abortion, induced miscarriage or concealment of birth between 2002 and 2023 (including in relation to the Abortion Act 1967 and the Concealment of Birth Act 1809)

## A breakdown by year of a) reports made to Police Scotland regarding abortion and b) investigations by Police Scotland regarding abortion

I can advise you that all crimes reported are investigated in accordance with the [Scottish Crime Recording Standard](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/p0nfjj2c/scottish-crime-recording-standard-crime-recording-and-counting-rules-april-2021.pdf?view=Standard).

In response to these questions, for the period 1 January 2002 - 31 August 2023:

Table 1: Abortion

| **Year** | **Recorded** | **Detected** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2019 | 1 | 1 |

Table 2: Concealment of Pregnancy

| **Year** | **Recorded** | **Detected** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2004 | 1 | 1 |
| 2005 | 1 | 0 |
| 2006 |  | 1 |
| 2007 | 3 | 2 |
| 2008 | 2 | 1 |
| 2009 | 0 | 1 |
| 2011 | 1 | 1 |
| **TOTAL** | **8** | **7** |

## Whether those a) reported to Police Scotland regarding abortion and b) investigated by Police Scotland regarding abortion were i) women procuring abortion (or seeking to do so), ii) healthcare professionals, or iii) others assisting women to procure an abortion.

In relation to the one abortion offence, I can further advise that the case was reported to the police in 2019 approximately 30 years after it occurred.

It was marked as detected and a report was submitted to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service in respect of a third party - not a medical professional. The case was connected to allegations of historic sexual abuse of a child.

## I would also like to know:

## Whether Police Scotland has any internal guidelines regarding criminal offences that relate to abortion, induced miscarriage or concealment of birth?

There is no specific policy or Standard Operating Procedure and section 17 of the Act, this would therefore apply as the information sought is not held by Police Scotland. The [Crime Investigation SOP](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/uwwcamlx/crime-investigation-sop.pdf) would apply.

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.