| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0296  Responded to: 22 February 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1. Does screening for gambling disorder take place among detainees in any part of your force? If yes:

Police Scotland is currently running a gambling related harm data collection pilot within two Police Scotland divisions (V division - Dumfries & Galloway and K division - Renfrewshire & Inverclyde). The purpose of the pilot is to measure how Police Scotland is impacted by gambling related harm to formulate a national Police Scotland response. This also includes custody screening to measure how many of the people who are brought into custody are affected by gambling related harm. The practical part of this pilot is running from October 2022 to March 2023 and will have a report at the end.

## a) Which detainees are being screened? b) What are the triggers for a gambling screening?

All individuals within the two divisional areas who are brought into custody are asked if they wish to take part in the data collection pilot and are then screened

## c) Who does the screening and where?

The screening is carried out by custody staff, based within the custody areas of each division.

## d) What screening tools are used?

The screening involves a questionnaire regarding an individual’s gambling behaviour, whether they are an affected other or have experienced gambling issues themselves. They are also offered a self-help gambling related harm guide.

## e) What pathways are in place if gambling problems are identified?

For the purposes of the pilot, a charity partner has provided Police Scotland with a gambling related harm self-help guide. This guide is offered to all persons brought into custody (whether gambling problems are identified or not).

Criminal Justice Services Division (CJSD) is a national policing division that is responsible for all persons coming into police custody. The Custody Healthcare and Interventions Team is responsible for identifying and implementing appropriate support services within all police custody centres. Due to the extensive and diverse geography and custody demographics there are a variety of models across the custody estate.

Building on the work carried out in 2018 and where engagement with statutory partners and third sector agencies resulted in various third sector partners working closely with police officers and staff to raise the profile of, and ultimately offer arrest referrals, or pathways directly to support for all those passing through police custody, there is now a move to provide a person centred support service across Scotland. Rather than addressing individual needs, the goal is to look at the individual, and have access to multiple support services in each geographical location. This ties in with the CJSD Harm Reduction Strategy that has a public health approach to policing which seeks to ensure everyone who enters custody will be offered a harm reduction arrest referral.

Presently in addition to existing pathways directly to needs based support services relying solely email based referrals, we already have a number of link worker based models across Scotland. These are externally funded and have staff who will come into custody and engage directly with people in the cells and where appropriate look to provide support to address a range of issues including mental health, addictions, debt, housing and literacy, all of which were identified, via data analysis, as common factors in those coming into police custody. Although there is no specific screening for gambling disorders, whilst engaging with persons in custody, the link workers will explore all areas that might be contributing to their offending, and this would include gambling. Examples of this include the Highland Third Sector Interface; Dundee CARS; SACRO Navigators in Fife; SACRO AYE in South Lanarkshire, and Reconnect who provide a holistic support service for Women in the Scottish Borders.

CJSD is also still working in partnership with the Armed Services Advice Project (ASAP) who provide support to veterans who come into police custody. This service is available nationally across all custody facilities in Scotland. Each centre has a nominated champion - either a police officer or a police custody support officer - who will ensure appropriate referrals are made to ASAP who do provide specific support for gambling disorders.

## 2 (i). How many incidents attended during the period 1 January 2019 through to 31 December 2020 recorded the following key words – gambling, betting or casino?

## 2 (ii) How many incidents attended during the period 1 January 2021 through to 31 December 2022 recorded the following key words – gambling, betting or casino? Please provide for each incident:

## The month/year the incident occurred

## Alleged offence/reason for police attendance

## Gender

## Race

## Age

## Outcome of the incident (e.g. charge and summons, caution, community resolution)

In response to parts 2(i) a & b and 2(ii) a & b, please see the attached table.

I cannot stress enough that Police Scotland do not consider key word searches for specific words/ phrases to be an accurate means of analysis in most circumstances - however we do have the ability in our STORM incident recording system to conduct such searches.

You should note that there may well be incidents of relevance which do not include the specific words/ phrases you have chosen.

You should also consider that a keyword search will undoubtedly include incidents not relevant to your request - for example where the keyword hit has been a mere coincidence rather than directly relevant.

Further, we cannot exclude hits where the search term is part of a word or has been a misspelling of a different word.

In relation to parts c, d, e and f 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, the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to manually examine each and every incident to establish whether this level of detail is contained within the incident log - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

## 3 (i). How many crimes recorded during the period 1 January 2019 through to 31 December 2020 recorded the key word ‘gambling’? Please provide for each instance:

## 3 (ii) How many crimes recorded during the period 1 January 2021 through to 31 December 2022 recorded the key word ‘gambling’? Please provide for each instance:

## g) The month and year the crime occurred

## h) Alleged offence/reason for police attendance

## i) Suspect/offender’s gender

## j) Suspect/offender’s race

## k) Suspect/offender’s age

## l) Outcome (e.g. charge and summons, caution, community resolution)

Having considered these questions in terms of the above 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, Police Scotland operates a number of crime recording systems. Whilst robust statistical analysis can be made of the data held on each of our systems, they are not, at present, designed to enable the retrieval of the highly specific information as per your request.

In this instance, it is not possible to carry out a force wide search for specific terms or keywords on our crime systems.

As such, the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to carry out case by case assessment of thousands of crime reports for the time period requested, to establish whether ‘gambling’ was mentioned and how it related to the offence - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

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.