

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0030  
Date: 31 January 2022



**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002**

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below - please note that the questions has been re-ordered for ease of response.

**Please could you provide us with a list of all female victims of homicide killed between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2021 (inclusive) which your authority has been responsible for investigating, including:**

1. The date of the homicide;
2. The age of the victim;
3. The ethnicity/race of the victim;
4. The sex of the accused / perpetrator;
5. The ethnicity/race of the perpetrator;
6. If identified, the way in which the victim was killed;

I can advise you that there were 18 female victims of homicide in 2021 and the following table provides the information requested at Q1 – Q6 above;

DATE	VICTIM		PERPETRATOR		METHOD
	AGE	ETHNICITY/RACE	ETHNICITY/RACE	SEX	
04/02/2021	39	White Scottish	White Scottish	Male	Weapon
04/02/2021	24	White Scottish	White Scottish	Male	Weapon
14/02/2021	44	White British	White British	Male	Weapon
05/03/2021	25	Filipino	White British	Male	Weapon
05/03/2021	2	Filipino	White British	Male	Asphyxia
06/04/2021	54	White British	White British	Male	Weapon
23/04/2021	25	White British	White British	Male	Physical Assault
12/05/2021	45	White British	White British	Male	Vehicular
26/05/2021	34	White Scottish	White British	Male	Weapon
28/05/2021	67	White Scottish	White Scottish	Male	Physical Assault
04/07/2021	55	White British	White British	Male	Weapon
09/08/2021	57	White British	White Irish	Male	Physical Assault
09/08/2021	48	White Scottish	White Scottish	Male	Weapon
02/09/2021	31	Asian British	Asian British	Male	Physical Assault
05/11/2021	47	White British	White British	Male	Physical Assault
26/11/2021	16	White British	White British	Male	Physical Assault
28/11/2021	28	White Scottish	White Scottish	Male	Weapon
26/11/2021	73	White British	White British	Male	Weapon

- 7. The names of the victims and the accused / perpetrator;**  
**8. The relationship between the accused and the victim;**

In terms of the information requested at Q7 and Q8 I must advise you that it has always been the case that limited information regarding homicides may be disclosed as part of an investigative strategy and decisions to disclose this information are taken by the Senior Investigating Officer in consultation with the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service.

It is however considered that disclosure of the requested information under the Act would be detrimental to any ongoing investigations as it is essential that information is disclosed in the correct manner to ensure that neither the investigations nor the potential for any new proceedings to be brought against an individual are put at risk.

Taking all of the above into account, in terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought. Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

- (a) states that it holds the information,
- (b) states that it is claiming an exemption,
- (c) specifies the exemption in question and
- (d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested.

The exemptions that I consider to be applicable to the information requested by you are as follows:

Section 34(1)(b) - Investigations  
Section 35(1)(a)&(b) - Law enforcement  
Section 39(1) - Health & Safety

Such information is exempt if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to prejudice substantially the prevention or detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

### **Public Interest Test**

Whilst I appreciate that there is a degree of interest in the release of such information, what is of interest to the public is not necessarily in the public interest. The investigation of serious crimes such as homicide and ultimately, bringing those offenders to justice must always take precedence.

Accountability and transparency may favour disclosure of the information but conversely would be detrimental to ongoing investigations, and ultimately to the public at large.

It is essential that information pertaining to certain investigations is disclosed at the correct time, and only where appropriate, to ensure that neither the investigation nor the potential for proceedings to be brought against an individual are put at risk.

## OFFICIAL

Homicides are, by their very nature, extensively covered in the media and you may be able to gather much of the information you have requested by searching local media reports.

Equally, if it is of interest we publish information/ appeals regarding ongoing investigations on our website (although you should note that these will not all relate to homicides) at:

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/>

In summary, the call for transparency cannot outweigh the importance of the police maintaining confidentiality while an investigation is still ongoing. Therefore, the balance lies in withholding the information requested and accordingly, I have decided to maintain the exemption.

**9. Whether there were any previous reports from the victim (or any third party) regarding the accused / perpetrator;**

**10. Whether there were any previous reports and / or convictions of any other offences related to violence against women perpetrated by the accused / perpetrator.**

In consideration of Q9 and Q10 I must advise you that if held, any such information would be contained within numerous reporting databases. Every potential report would have to be read to obtain details to ascertain if the person reported for the murder was the same person detailed on the record for any previous offending. Police systems such as iVPD, Storm, SID and crime management would need to be accessed to cross reference the details in each case.

Given the potential timeframe for such reports, I am also conscious that any such reporting may predate the inception of Police Scotland on 1 April 2013, and consequently it would be extremely problematic to revisit any dataset which was a consolidation of records held by legacy divisions.

Accordingly 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.

If you require further assistance or are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to [foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk) or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision.

## OFFICIAL

You can apply [online](#), by email to [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.