

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1095
Date: 13th June 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 together with the response.

Broken down by police division, the number of sexual assaults on women in each of the last four years?

Broken down by police division, the number of arrests made in connection with sexual assaults on women in each of the last four years?

Having considered your request in terms of the above Act, I must first of all advise you that crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the Scottish Government Justice Department (SGJD) offence classification codes and are not thereafter sub-categorised.

In this instance, there are some sexual crimes whereby the SGJD offence classification includes a reference to the victim's gender, however there are also offence classifications which do not.

As such, the attachment titled 'Applicant Data' provides the number of all recorded and detected Group 2 (Sexual) Crimes, for the time period requested, broken down by crime classification and Police Division.

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 26th May 2022.

As stated above, some of the classifications refer directly to the victim's gender, however, I am unable to provide you with the victim's gender for all of the other sexual offences listed, 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 crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no facility whereby the gender of the victim can be easily extracted.

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The only possible way to establish the gender of the victims in these offences would be to carry out case by case assessment of each associated crime report - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management Dundee, quoting the reference number given.

If you 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.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, 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. You can apply [online](#), by email to 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.