| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-2324Responded to: 05 August 2025 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Please supply the following for the period 1 Jan 2019 to the most recent month available:**

1. **Monthly arrest totals broken down by Home Office crime type.**

The Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 removed the separate concepts of arrest and detention and replaced them with a power of arrest without warrant - where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting a person has committed, or is committing, an offence.

When a person is arrested, a statement of arrest should be read over as soon as reasonably practicable, and details recorded in the arresting officer’s notebook.

A person is ‘Not Officially Accused’ (a suspect) when arrested *and* *not* cautioned and charged. They are ‘Officially Accused’ once arrested *and* cautioned and charged.

If conveyed to a police station, the arrested person will have their details recorded in our National Custody System.

There are situations however whereby a person must be released from police custody prior to their arrival at a police station - effectively they are ‘de-arrested’ - where the reasonable grounds for suspicion no longer exist. In those circumstances, the details of an arrested person are not held electronically.

As a result, we are unfortunately unable to collate comprehensivearrest data, as case by case assessment of all officer notebooks would be required - in addition to the partialarrest data held in the National Custody System.

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request and I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

For the reasons outlined above, Police Scotland do not collate data on arrests.

Notwithstanding, Home Office Crime Classifications do not extend to Scotland. Crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the [Scottish Government Justice Department (SGJD)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/user-guide-recorded-crime-statistics-scotland-3/documents/) offence classifications.

Instead, data is compiled and published based on recorded and detected crimes - [Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/).

Detected crimes are those where an accused has been identified and there exists a sufficiency of evidence under Scots Law to justify consideration of criminal proceedings.

## Recorded offences and separate arrest totals for:

## Residential burglary

## Knife‑enabled crime

## Sexual offences

The information sought is publicly available: [Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/)

The information is therefore held by Police Scotland, but I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the section 25(1) exemption applies:

“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it […] is exempt information”.

As explained above, crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the [(SGJD)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/user-guide-recorded-crime-statistics-scotland-3/documents/) offence classifications.

The most relevant classifications would be Theft by Housebreaking - dwelling and the various knife related crime classifications can be searched for by using ‘blade’ or ‘point’.

## Gang‑related violence

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

By way of explanation, there are no flags/ markers or searchable fields within our crime recording system that would indicate a crime or offence was​ gang related.

Collation of data would require individual review of each crime report for relevance - an exercise that would far exceed the cost threshold set out within the Act.

**3. Grooming‑gang investigations: number opened, number concluded, prosecutions secured.**

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

Any such instance would be recorded as Rape/ Sexual Assault/ Grooming of children for the purposes of sexual offences etc. in accordance with the crime classifications and we have no flags/ markers for those where a gang is alleged to have been involved.

The only way to collate this data would be to manually assess all relevant reports - clearly an exercise that would far exceed the cost threshold set out within the Act.

Police Scotland does not hold prosecution data and section 17 of the Act therefore applies. You may wish to contact the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) and/ or the Scottish Courts Service.

 **4. Arrests, charges, or convictions involving foreign‑national suspects (please break down by nationality if held).**

In terms of Arrests, please see our explanation in Question 1.

In relation to convictions, Police Scotland does not hold criminal conviction data and section 17 of the Act therefore applies. You may wish to contact the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) and/ or the Scottish Courts Service.

For charges, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request and I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

The nationality of parties linked to crime in any capacity (victim/ accused etc) is not a mandatory recording field and is in fact, rarely recorded.

Notwithstanding, such data where it is recorded is only retrievable via individual assessment of crime reports of which there are tens of thousands per year.

**5. Cases closed with “No Further Action” (NFA) – provide count and % of total.**

Home Office outcome categories do not extend to Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies. The information sought is not held by Police Scotland.

Crimes in Scotland are recorded 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) and crimes are reported as recorded or detected.

Detected crimes are those where an accused has been identified and there exists a sufficiency of evidence under Scots Law to justify consideration of criminal proceedings.

Corresponding data can be accessed online - [Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/).

**6. Recorded allegations that the force failed to act on reports of child sexual exploitation (outcome of each).**

We have interpreted this part of your request to be for Complaints About the Police (CAPs) submitted in relation to the Force failing to act on reports of child sexual exploitation.

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

By way of explanation, there is no category on the recording system that aligns and as such, all CAPs would need to be reviewed for relevance.

**7. Stop‑and‑search and use‑of‑force incidents (form 5090) – monthly totals by ethnicity, age, and outcome.**

The information sought is held by Police Scotland, but I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the section 25(1) exemption applies:

“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it […] is exempt information”.

The information sought is publicly available:

[Use of Force - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/use-of-force/)

[Stop and Search Data Publication - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/stop-and-search/data-publication/)

In terms of their Outcomes, unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request.

 I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

To collate this data would require manual assessment of all cases individually - clearly an exercise that would far exceed the cost threshold set out within the Act.

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](https://www.foi.scot/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.