

OFFICIAL

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2754
Date: 1st February 2023



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.

Tackling domestic abuse is a priority for Police Scotland and we are committed to working with our partners to reduce the harm it causes and ultimately eradicate it.

Domestic abuse is a despicable and debilitating crime which affects all of our communities and has no respect for ability, age, ethnicity, gender, race, religion or sexual orientation.

Police Scotland will not tolerate it.

Police Scotland will proactively target perpetrators and support victims to prevent domestic abuse from damaging the lives of victims and their families.

Police Scotland defines domestic abuse as:

“Any form of physical, verbal, sexual, psychological or financial abuse which might amount to criminal conduct and which takes place within the context of a relationship. The relationship will be between partners (married, cohabiting, civil partnership or otherwise) or ex-partners. The abuse may be committed in the home or elsewhere including online”

This definition is included in the Joint Protocol between Police Scotland and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS), “*In partnership challenging domestic abuse*” which is a public document that can be found at the Police Scotland website on <https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/ymzlwjw/joint-protocol-between-police-scotland-and-copfs-in-partnership-challenging-domestic-abuse.pdf?view=Standard> or on the COPFS website on <http://www.copfs.gov.uk/>.

Please note that the definition of Domestic abuse in Scotland differs from the definition of Domestic Violence in England and Wales which includes wider familial abuse e.g. from parents or children etc.

I request information in regards to rates of domestic abuse towards men, the conviction records and if they are were convicted what sentences were given to the perpetrators. Also what is Police Scotland going to do in regards to help male victims of domestic abuse

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Following clarification with you, you advised:

I mean in regards to how many reports of domestic abuse against men, how many led to a criminal case and how many led to a sentence

Please note that Police Scotland no longer uses the term domestic violence as we recognise that domestic abuse includes a wide range of abusive behaviours.

The interim Vulnerable Persons database (iVPD) is the formal means by which Police Scotland record police contact with adults, children and young people who are, or are perceived to be, experiencing some form of adversity and / or situational vulnerability, which may impact on their current or future wellbeing; or where force policy dictates. E.g. Domestic abuse, hate crime, youth offending or to record details of victim's rights under Section 8 and 9 of the [Victims and Witnesses \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#). Contact is recorded as a Concern Report on the iVPD and Police Scotland record a concern report in relation to all incidents of domestic abuse. The domestic abuse statistics are obtained from the iVPD.

Where criminality is identified, crimes are then linked to the relevant concern report within the iVPD. Although a crime may have been identified it is only marked as detected and a report submitted to the Procurator Fiscal where a sufficiency of evidence exists.

Please see the attached spreadsheet titled Attachment 01 for data regarding recorded domestic abuse incidents where the victim was male. Please note that there are two tables within the spreadsheet. Additionally, please note the necessary caveats in line with the data.

With reference to convictions and sentence information I regret to inform you that in terms of Section 17 of the Act, I can confirm that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

By way of explanation, Police Scotland do not hold information regarding sentencing and conviction rates. You may wish to contact the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscals Service (COPFS) which holds conviction information for Scotland. A request can be submitted to COPFS via email using the following address foi@copfs.gsi.gov.uk

With respect to your question regarding the actions of Police Scotland towards male victims of domestic abuse. I must refer you to the opening statement regarding domestic abuse. It is important to note that, Police Scotland will not tolerate domestic abuse, regardless of the gender of the victim. Police Scotland will proactively target perpetrators and support victims again, regardless of gender.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management 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.

OFFICIAL

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.