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Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2746
Date: 3rd 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”

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'm writing to you to request information through the Freedom of Information Act regarding domestic violence in Edinburgh.

I would like to know the number of domestic violence incidents reported in the last 12 months (01/07/2021 to 01/07/2022). This can include reports that were retracted and incomplete.

The term 'domestic violence' can include any situation that reported any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.

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I would also like this information to explain the following:

- **The month in which it was reported**
- **The age and gender of who it was reported by**

Following clarification with you, you advised that:

Regarding the clarification of retracted and incomplete reports, I would like the data to include any reports where the victim has retracted their statement or where a victim will not engage with police.

And:

in regards to the age/gender it would be in regards to the victims please.

Please note that Police Scotland do not use the term Domestic Violence. Police Scotland use the term Domestic Abuse as defined above.

In response to your request, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information requested regarding retracted statements or incomplete reports due to victims choosing to not engage with police, 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, there is no straightforward method to extract the information you require. In order to determine if any statement had been retracted or if any victim refused to engage with police each report would need to be manually examined to determine the data held. As you can see from the spreadsheet named Attachment 01 there are 5636 noted incidents. Even with a conservative estimate of 3 minutes per record it would take an excess of 281 hours to assess the data.

Should you wish to significantly reduce your search parameters, for example the time frame it may be the case that Police Scotland can provide some of the information you require.

Police Scotland have assessed that the £600 cost limit within the Act equates to 40 hours of work and so this part of your request would breach the cost threshold.

In response to your other questions please see the two spread sheets attached, named Attachment 01 and Attachment 02. These provide the number of Domestic Abuse incidents recorded on the Police Scotland's interim Vulnerable Persons Database (iVPD) along with the age and gender of the victim.

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

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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.

The iVPD is a dynamic database which is constantly being updated and changed.

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.

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.