| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0075  Responded to: 10 March 2023 |
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Your request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding.

## I am looking for figures on the number of people who died in police custody over the last ten years.

## This should include - but not be confined to - those who have died in police cells.

## It should also include those who have died after being apprehended by the police.

## I am looking for the numbers broken down on an annual basis for Jan-Dec 2013 to Jan-Dec 2022.

First of all, in relation to 2013 and January to March 2014, the information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act applies.

By way of explanation, that period pre dates the introduction of the national Professional Standards database.

All data in this response headed 2014 covers the period 1 April to 31 December 2014 inclusive.

I would also advise you that a Fatal Accident Inquiry (FAI) is mandatory when someone dies in custody, in prison or in a police station and related information is available online once all investigations are concluded:

[Fatal Accident Inquiries (scotcourts.gov.uk)](https://www.scotcourts.gov.uk/search-judgments/fatal-accident-inquiries)

## How many people have died in total while in the custody of Police Scotland? Please provide figures on an annual basis and broken down by each of the 13 Police Scotland divisions.

In response to this question, I would first of all clarify that the data below represents *all* deaths in police custody. The definition of ‘in police custody’ in this context is not limited to deaths occurring within a custody suite on police premises and consequently, the locus of some of these deaths will be out with Police Scotland premises:

| **Division** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Argyll & West Dunbartonshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ayrshire | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Edinburgh | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fife | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Forth Valley | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Greater Glasgow | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Lanarkshire | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| North East | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Tayside | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Renfrewshire & Inverclyde | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Grand Total | 2 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 |

Please note that data is based on the deceased date which may vary from the date when the matter was referred to the PIRC.   
Division is based on the location where the person died which may vary from the locus of the incident(s) linked to this matter.

## Please provide ages and genders for all of those who have died while in Police Scotland’s custody.

In response to this question, data is provided in the table below:

| **Age of Deceased** | **Female** | **Male** |  | **Age of Deceased** | **Female** | **Male** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 19 | 1 | 0 |  | 36 | 0 | 1 |
| 20 | 0 | 1 |  | 37 | 0 | 2 |
| 21 | 0 | 1 |  | 39 | 0 | 1 |
| 24 | 0 | 2 |  | 43 | 0 | 1 |
| 28 | 0 | 1 |  | 49 | 1 | 0 |
| 29 | 0 | 1 |  | 50 | 0 | 2 |
| 31 | 0 | 2 |  | 52 | 1 | 0 |
| 32 | 0 | 2 |  | 55 | 0 | 1 |
| 33 | 0 | 2 |  | 56 | 0 | 1 |
| 34 | 0 | 2 |  | 62 | 0 | 1 |
| 35 | 0 | 1 |  | **Grand Total** | **3** | **25** |

Please note that data is based on age at the date of death, which may vary from the date when the matter was referred to the PIRC.

## How many people have died while in Police Scotland stations and/or cells? Again, please provide this information on an annual basis, with details of the police station where they had been held.

This is interpreted to be a continuation of question one above.

Data regarding the number of deaths in custody, where the death has occurred within a Police office (including custody suites), between 01/04/2014 and 31/03/2022 inclusive is provided in the table below. Please note that this total varies from the overall death in Police custody figures provided in response to question 1 above.

This is due to the locus of some deaths occurring out with Police premises, as the definition of ‘Police custody’ is not limited simply to being held within a custody suite on Police premises.

Documentation linked to each file was manually reviewed to confirm the detail requested for the purposes of this response.

| **Locus** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Clydebank Police Station, West Dunbartonshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| City Centre Police Station, Glasgow | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Govan Police Station, Glasgow | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Kittybrewster Police Station, Aberdeen | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Police Headquarters,  Dundee | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| St Leonards Police Station, Edinburgh | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kirkcaldy Police Station, Fife | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Inverclyde Royal Hospital, Greenock | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Grand Total | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 |

Please note that data is based on the date of death which may vary from the date when the matter was referred to the PIRC.  
Locus is based on the location where the individual died and may vary from the locus of linked incident(s) which preceded the death.

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](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) 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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) 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.