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Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2570
Date: 21st December 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.

The Scotsman: 'While there were 12 sex complaints at this time last year, police watchdogs have been told the total being investigated now has soared to 51. At the same time, the number of serving officers suspended from duty has jumped 65 per cent and in the case of civilian members of staff, almost 170 per cent.'

1. Please provide the number of (i) officers and (ii) staff the 51 allegations relate to.

I would first of all advise you that the data below has been provided following interrogation of Police Scotland's Professional Standards Database.

It is important to note that the data relates to **allegations** of behaviours or conduct of a sexual nature which may, or may not have been substantiated.

These allegations can be reported in a number of different ways, including; formal internal/ external reporting mechanisms and anonymously via Crimestoppers or Police Scotland's Integrity Matters reporting tool.

Every effort is made to develop information received with a view to identifying lines of enquiry, the potential subject of the report and furthering criminal investigations.

On occasion, due to the anonymous nature of the information provided, the quality of the information, or indeed the historical date of the offence, it may not be possible to identify the alleged perpetrator.

In these instances, the police officer or member of police staff is listed as "Unknown".

The 51 allegations received/ reported between 1 April and 30 September 2022 inclusive can be broken down as follows:

Police officers - 44
Police staff - 2
Unknown - 5

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2. Please break down the allegations eg x number of rapes, x number of sexual communications with a child.

The 51 allegations received/ reported between 1 April and 30 September 2022 inclusive can be broken down as follows:

Inappropriate Conduct/ Comments - 20

Rape - 3

Sexual Assaults - 18

Sexual Relationships - 1

Inappropriate behaviour towards children - 1

Online Behaviour - 8

3. Please provide the actual numbers of (i) serving officers the figure of 65 per cent relates to and (ii) civilian staff the figure of 170 per cent relates to.

This data is publicly available in the [Quarter 2 Report](#) referred to in the article (page 20).

As such, in terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought. Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

- (a) states that it holds the information,
- (b) states that it is claiming an exemption,
- (c) specifies the exemption in question and
- (d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at Section 25(1) of the Act - information otherwise accessible:

“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under Section 1(1) is exempt information”

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.

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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.

