| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-0514  Responded to: 20 March 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Sudden Death Statistics**

**I would be obliged if you could provide the total amount of the above for each division of Police Scotland between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023.**

**The results should only include those deaths where police were required to report the circumstances to the Procurator Fiscal due to a death certificate not being issued by a medical practitioner at the time of death.**

Please be advised that at this time there are no formal Sudden Death figures collated within Police Scotland other than Drugs Deaths and Suicides.

The figures below have therefore been compiled from a range of sources and include data from several recording systems in place.

The figures for the 5 divisions which make up the West - L, G, K, Q & U - are the total number of police reports submitted for non-suspicious (unexplained medical) deaths.

We are unable to confirm how many of these reports were submitted due to GP’s refusing to issue an MCCD at the time of death as we do not record this information.  Section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

The data below is recorded by financial year rather than calendar year, as such the following is based on data recorded April 2022 to March 2023.

| **Division** | **Sudden Death reports** |
| --- | --- |
| A (North East) | 707 |
| N (Highlands & Islands) | 414 |
| D (Tayside) | 719 |
| E (Edinburgh) | 758 |
| C (Forth Valley) | 552 |
| J (The Lothians & Scottish Borders) | 455 |
| P (Fife) | 582 |
| L (Argyll & West Dunbartonshire) | 435 |
| G (Greater Glasgow) | 1671 |
| K (Renfrewshire & Inverclyde) | 639 |
| Q (Lanarkshire) | 1559 |
| U (Ayrshire) | 718 |
| V (Dumfries & Galloway) | 306 |

Please be advised that In November 2023 a National Case system was introduced where officers complete a Sudden Death report but no information can be abstracted from this system which relates to deaths where a medical practitioner has not issued a certificate. More information may be able to be provided by the Scottish Fatalities Investigation Unit with the Procurator Fiscals Office: foi@copfs.gsi.gov.uk

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.