| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-3240  Responded to: 18 January 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information relating to details held by your force concerning the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

## For the purpose of this request we are considering an investigation to be as defined by the college of policing as  an investigation conducted by police officers/civilian investigators with a view to it being ascertained whether a person should be charged with an offence, or whether a person charged with an offence is awaiting trial.

## Do the information systems used by your force have special tags or markers to indicate suspicions or indicators of modern slavery and/or human trafficking?

In terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 a public authority is only obliged to provide recorded information.

Under Section 8 of the Act, information which requires opinion or a yes/no response is not in essence a valid request.

To be of assistance I can advise Police Scotland utilise tags in numerous recording systems to record suspected Human Trafficking/Modern Slavery.

## Does your force have a crime registra spoc monitoring the quality or crime reports generated within the force relating to modern slavery and human trafficking?

Police Scotland utilises Crime Registrars to oversee the accuracy of crime reports, ensuring compliance with Scottish Crime Recording Standards. While there are no recorded crimes labelled as 'Modern Slavery' in Scotland, this term is often synonymous with Human Trafficking and as such crimes are recorded in terms of the Human Trafficking Scotland Act, 2015.  Each Policing Division has a designated Human Trafficking Champion offering support, and there is a National Human Trafficking Unit providing specialised advice, support, and monitoring across the country. The introduction of Police Scotland's national Crime Recording system aims to facilitate easier monitoring of Human Trafficking crimes recorded throughout Scotland.

## What is the average lifetime of a modern slavery and/or human trafficking investigation within your force?

I can advise that Police Scotland does not hold information in the format requested. In terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that information is not held.

As you will be aware an individual’s right in terms of the legislation is to obtain information held by a public authority at the time a request is received and there is no obligation on them to create new information specifically for this request.

By way of explanation, Police Scotland do not routinely collate such information.

## Between January 2023 and December 2023 how many modern slavery and/or human trafficking records are logged within your system (intel, public reporting, crime reports etc.) of which how many have been allocated to an investigating officer and a case file generated?

## Of that number how many are live modern slavery investigations today (15th of December 2023)  and of those how many victims does that relate to?

Police Scotland received 870 National Referral Mechanism (NRM) referrals from Home Office Competent Authorities between 01/01/2023- 31/12/2023. Please note this number represents number of reports received, multiple referrals may be received for a potential victim of trafficking and NRMs may subsequently be returned to the Home Office with a request for reallocated to other Forces for enquiry resulting in multiple recording by individual Forces which may not match Office of National Statistics (ONS) published statistics.

Police Scotland also received 147 Duty to Notify (DTN) referrals. It should be noted that DTN has not yet been enacted in Scotland under the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015.

47 Modern Slavery Helpline Referrals have been received.

I can advise that in the period from 1 January to 31 December 2023 there were a total of 177 undetected crimes recorded.

Finally, in relation to the number of victims, in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (the Act) 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 information, this information cannot be electronically extracted and would require each record to be physically examined. To complete this task would take in excess of the 40 hour and £600 cost limits prescribed by the Scottish Ministers in terms of the Act.

## and of those closed what are the 2 highest recorded closing codes?

I can advise that Police Scotland does not hold this information. In terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that information is not held.

By way of explanation, closing codes is terminology used in England and Wales. This terminology not used in Scotland.

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.