| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 24-0546Responded to: 13 March 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I would like to request a ethnic breakdown of suspects of homicide from Jan to June 2023 for specifically Glasgow

For clarification purposes, I would ask that you first note the following information.

The information requested relates to “homicides”, as such a search has been conducted for both Murder and Culpable Homicides. Due to the request pertaining to a very recent time parameter, all of the cases found remain unresolved. Below is by way of an explanation of what is termed “unresolved”

• Unresolved Homicides:

Unresolved homicides are considered those where:

(a) No suspect has been identified

(b) A suspect has been identified but not charged (no proceedings)

(c) A suspect has been identified and charged but not placed on petition (no proceedings)

(d) A suspect has appeared on petition but no indictment served due to there being considered an insufficiency of evidence at that time (no proceedings)

(e) A suspect has been indicted and a trial concluded which has resulted in an acquittal (Not Guilty/Not Proven)

(f) A suspect has been convicted but acquitted on appeal and no fresh prosecution has been authorised by the Appeal Court (Not Guilty)

(g) A suspect has committed suicide prior to trial and no other person is being sought in connection with the case.

(h) A suspect has been charged then reported and is awaiting trial.

Furthermore many homicides (particularly those committed during the last few years during the Covid 19 pandemic) are still awaiting court proceedings to bring them to a legal conclusion. In this regard Police Scotland categorise and record these homicides as **unresolved.**

On that basis, I can provide you that from 01 January to 30 June 2023, there were 5 murders specifically within the Greater Glasgow area.

These cases are categorised as ‘unresolved’ at this time due to the circumstances outlined above.

It has always been the case that limited information regarding homicides may be disclosed as part of an investigative strategy and decisions to disclose this level of detail are taken by the Senior Investigating Officer in consultation with the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service.

It is however considered that disclosure of some of the requested information under the Act would be detrimental to any ongoing investigations as it is essential that information is disclosed in the correct manner to ensure that neither the investigations nor the potential for any proceedings to be brought against an individual are put at risk.

Taking all of the above into account, in terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with information relating to the circumstances of the homicide/MO. 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. The exemptions that I consider to be applicable to the information requested by you are as follows:

Section 34(1)(b) - Investigations

Section 35(1)(a)&(b) - Law enforcement

Section 39(1) - Health & Safety

Such information is exempt if its disclosure under this Act would or would be likely to prejudice substantially the prevention or detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

Public Interest Test

Whilst I appreciate that there is a degree of interest in the release of such information, what is of interest to the public is not necessarily in the public interest. The investigation of serious crimes such as homicide and ultimately, bringing those offenders to justice must always take precedence.

Accountability and transparency may favour disclosure of the information but conversely would be detrimental to ongoing investigations, and ultimately to the public at large.

It is essential that information pertaining to certain investigations is disclosed at the correct time, and only where appropriate, to ensure that neither the investigation nor the potential for proceedings to be brought against an individual are put at risk.

Homicides are, by their very nature, extensively covered in the media and you may be able to further information by searching local media reports.

Equally, if it is of interest, we publish information/ appeals regarding ongoing investigations on our website (although you should note that these will not all relate to homicides) at:

[What's Happening - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/)

In summary, the call for transparency cannot outweigh the importance of the police maintaining confidentiality while an investigation or legal proceedings are still ongoing.

Therefore, the balance lies in withholding the information requested and accordingly, I have decided to maintain the exemption.

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 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 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.