

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1848  
Date: 14<sup>th</sup> September 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.

A missing person is defined as anyone whose whereabouts is unknown and:

- where the circumstances are out of character or
- the context suggests the person may be subject to crime or
- the person is at risk of harm to themselves or another.

A wanted Registered Sex Offender is defined as those who are subject to the notification requirements of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and who have a live warrant in force. Police Scotland treats all missing and wanted Registered Sex Offenders with the utmost seriousness and will carry out all possible enquiries to trace their whereabouts and to re-establish the management required to protect the public. On all occasions a Senior Investigating Officer (SIO) of a rank no less than Inspector will be appointed to lead these investigations.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, Police Scotland, on a monthly basis, publish data regarding the number of Registered Sex Offenders in our communities, broken down by policing division and postcode area.

Information regarding “Wanted” or “Missing” Registered Sex Offenders is also published via the link below:

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/police-scotland/specialist-crime-division/sex-offender-policing-units/registered-sex-offender-rso-information/>

Police Scotland is committed to keeping people safe. Our focus is on the protection of those at risk of harm through prevention, early intervention and the robust investigation of those who pose such a risk. We fulfil our role as a Responsible Authority in the delivery of MAPPA providing effective and efficient management of Registered Sex Offenders (RSO's) and Other Risk of Serious Harm Offenders.

This is achieved through each of Police Scotland's 13 local policing Divisions having a dedicated Sex Offender Policing Unit (SOPU) with specialist officers working in partnership to police and reduce the risk posed by such offenders.

While we can never eliminate risk entirely, we want to reassure communities that all reasonable steps are being taken to protect them

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

**1. Please state how many Registered Sex Offenders (Category 1) your force had responsibility for as at 1.1.22?**

As of the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 there were 4,510 Registered Sex Offenders (RSOs) being policed in the community.

**2. How many of these RSOs (Category 1) referred to in Question 1 did you NOT have an up-to-date address for in that you did NOT know where they were living?**

As of the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022, there were 17 wanted and 0 missing RSOs.

Of the 17 wanted RSOs, 14 were believed to be abroad.

Of the 3 offenders believed to have remained in the UK, 2 were believed to have left Scotland with no address registered and 1 offender was believed to have remained in Scotland with no address registered.

**3. Of those 'missing' RSOs (Category 1) referred to in Question 2 how many were designated as being managed at (i) Level 1, (ii) Level 2 and (iii) Level 3?**

16 of the wanted RSOs were being managed at MAPPA Level 1, with 1 being managed by MAPPA Level 2.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management Dundee, 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](mailto: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. You can apply [online](#), by email to [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto: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.

**OFFICIAL**