| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2931  Responded to: 4th December 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## How many Osman Warnings were issued by Police Scotland in the following years:

## 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 (year to date)

The police have an obligation to take all reasonable steps to protect the lives of people where there is a “real and immediate” risk to them from the criminal acts of another. To clarify further, such incidents which are classed as being a ‘real and immediate’ risk; and where the serving of notices is deemed appropriate are documented, for example:

Threat to life warning notice – Would be considered for issue to a potential “victim” where it is assessed there is credible intelligence that there is a viable threat to that person’s life.

Personal safety advice warning notice – Would be considered where it is assessed there is credible intelligence that a person may be at risk of personal injury.

Disruption notice and Disruption Interview Notices – Would be considered for issue to potential perpetrators where there is credible intelligence that persons may be involved in a criminal act.

In response to your request, it is important to ensure that the terminology ‘Osman Warnings’ is interpreted accurately i.e. as a Threat to Life (TTL) warning notice when intelligence exists that there is a viable threat to life. For absolute clarity on this matter, TTL Warning Notices and Personal Safety Advice Warning Notices are only issued to potential victims who have been fully identified.

To be of assistance, I can provide the following:

| **Year** | **Threat to Life Warnings** | **Personal Safety Advice Notices** | **Threat to Life Disruption Notices** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **2019** | 17 | 162 | 181 |
| **2020** | 18 | 161 | 186 |
| **2021** | 20 | 152 | 165 |
| **2022** | 16 | 149 | 130 |

In relation to data from the 1st January 2023 to date, I am refusing to confirm or deny whether the information sought exists or is held by Police Scotland in terms of section 18 of the Act.

Section 18 applies where the following two conditions are met:

- It would be contrary to the public interest to reveal whether the information is held

- If the information was held, it would be exempt from disclosure in terms of one or more of the exemptions set out in sections 28 to 35, 38, 39(1) or 41 of the Act

In accordance with the conditions above, Police Scotland can neither confirm nor deny that it holds the information you have requested.

Firstly, sections 38(1)(b) and 38(1)(2A) of the Act may apply insofar as you have requested third party personal data which is exempt from disclosure where it is assessed that disclosure would contravene the data protection principles as defined in the Act.

The following exemptions are also considered relevant:

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

Section 39(1) - Health and Safety

Section 34 – Investigations

To be clear, data will only be disclosed on an annual level and not by partial time periods. As such, you may wish to re-submit your request in January 2024.

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.