| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0091  Responded to: 15th February 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I write to request information and records under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 regarding your force’s use of data, databases, profiling and risk assessment systems.**

**1. Does your force conduct ‘hot-spot’ mapping of crime in geographic areas or other form of geographic crime analysis? If yes, please provide:**

Yes

**a. The crimes for which hotspot mapping or geographic crime analysis is conducted;**

We do not have a set of crimes this is applied for, it is determined by the issue being investigated.

**b. If known and easily retrievable, the date this hotspot mapping or geographic crime analysis began;**

We do not hold this data, as such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information requested is not held by Police Scotland.

To be of some assistance, general hotspot mapping has been in use since the creation of police Scotland in April 2013.

**d. If available in an easily retrievable format, the sources and types of the data used for this hotspot mapping (e.g names of other databases and the types of data they contain);**

The information requested in not available in an easily retrievable format and so this question is not applicable. To provide some context, the question asked is broad and in essence would cover most police systems in use. As Police Scotland has a number of legacy systems in place prior to its formation as well as national systems, compiling a definitive list would in my view not be classed as easily retrievable.

**e. The outcomes, such as police patrols or other resource decisions that follow from the hot-spot mapping or other form of geographic crime analysis.**

In response to your request, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 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 explanation, each problem profile created along with any other work which could be classed under your definition would need to be manually checked to confirm what outcome resulted from it. Whilst I note no timescale has been provided, if we were to look at just a single year, many hundreds of reports would require to be reviewed. It is estimated that hundreds of hours of work would be required to confirm the information requested.

Police Scotland have assessed that the £600 cost limit within the Act equates to 40 hours of work and so this part of your request would breach the cost threshold.

**2. Does your force conduct risk assessment or profiling (as under the meaning of profiling in the Data Protection Act 2018) of individuals in relation to certain types of crimes (for example, in relation to violence or serious violence, gang crime, county lines, knife crime or general re-offending)? If yes, please provide:**

No, the rest of your questions in this section are therefore not applicable.

**a. The types and/or names of each profiling or risk assessment model;**

**b. If known and easily retrievable, the date each profiling or risk assessment model started being used;**

**c. The purpose of each profiling or risk assessment model;**

**d. What data is used to conduct the profiling or risk assessment model;**

**e. If available in an easily retrievable format, the sources of that data (e.g other database(s) and the types of data they contain);**

**f. What are the potential outcomes following the profiling or risk assessment model output.**

**3. Does your force hold lists or databases of people allegedly involved in gang crime, county lines, knife crime, or violent crime, or conduct any profiling or risk assessment in relation to those lists or databases? If yes, please provide:**

Following a clarification request you confirmed the following:

## We're asking about databases or lists specific to those issues. For example, some forces have specific units dedicated to those issues (Violence Reduction Units, or gang-related units, for example) who specifically target people involved in those issues. So the question is asking about lists or databases specifically related to certain forms of crime or behaviour.

Please note that as you have asked for databases specific to the categories above, more general databases which cover a wider set of offences have been excluded. For example the Scottish Intelligence Database (SID) which allows Police Scotland officers to grade, manage and action intelligence for a variety of policing purposes. It cannot be said to be specific to gang crime, county lines, knife crime, or violent crime.

**a. The names of the database(s) or list(s);**

**b. If known and easily retrievable, the date each database or list was first created;**

**c. The criteria for inclusion on the database(s) or list(s);**

**d. If available in an easily retrievable format, the type of data that is used to assess the criteria for inclusion on the database(s) or list(s);**

**e. If available in an easily retrievable format, how many people are on the database(s) or list(s);**

**f. The criteria for any profiling or risk assessment of people on the database(s) or list(s).**

In regards to questions 3a to 3e:

Law enforcement in Scotland uses the Management of Risk in Law Enforcement (MoRiLE) methodology to assess risk in relation to Serious Organised Crime Groups (SOCGs). The use of MoRiLE was implemented in 2021/22 Q1. This ensures that resources are used to target the issues causing the greatest risk.

Serious Organised Crime is crime which:

* involves more than one person;
* is organised, meaning that it involves control, planning and use of specialist resources;
* causes, or has the potential to cause, significant harm; and
* Involves benefit to the individuals concerned, particularly financial gain.

At 2021/22 Q4, there were 97 SOCGs recorded 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.