

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0081
Date: 31st January 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.

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

I am looking at 2019, 2020 and 2021 data and would appreciate it if you could provide the data for each separate year.

Missing persons

1. How many persons were reported missing during 2019, 2020, 2021? what percentage were Men, Women and Children? (please provide data for each individual year)

	2019	2020	2021
Total Reported Missing Persons	12,172	15,291	16,298
% Males (incl. children)	57.24%	55.09%	56.04%
% Females (incl. children)	42.45%	42.24%	42.32%
% Unknown	0.31%	2.67%	1.64%
% Children	28.73%	27.31%	26.64%
% Looked after & accommodated children (LAAC)	21.94%	23.44%	24.13%

2. How many of the reported missing person cases were resolved (person found) during 2019, 2020, 2021?(please provide data for each individual year)

The number of Missing Persons found during each year was as follows:-

- 2019** – 12,166
- 2020** – 15,274
- 2021** – 16,279

Resolved cases

1. How many cases were resolved within the first month, within three months, within six months and within nine months from the date they were reported missing during 2019, 2020, 2021 (please provide data for each individual year)

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In response to this question, 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.

Each missing person case would have to be individually reviewed to establish the time taken to trace the individual. I estimate that this would take approximately 5-10 minutes per form and approximately 43,500 forms would require to be assessed.

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.

Staff absences

The data presented has been extracted from Police Scotland's System to Co-ordination Personnel and Establishment (SCOPE) database.

1. How many Police Officers were reported absent due to sickness NOT relating to COVID-19 during 2019, 2020, 2021 (please provide data for each individual year)

Non-Covid19 Absence	2019	2020	2021
Total Absences	17,131	11,232	13,407
Headcount	10,342	7,745	8,597

2. How many Police Officers were absent due to self-isolation relating to COVID-19 during 2020, 2021 (please provide data for each individual year)

3. How many Police Staff were absent due to self-isolation relating to COVID-19 during 2020, 2021 (please provide data for each individual year)

Covid-19 Self-Isolation Absence	Police Officers		Police Staff	
	2020	2021	2020	2021
Total Absences	6,890	6,626	1,946	1,400
Headcount	5,560	5,128	1,662	1,103

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.pnn.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.

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You can apply [online](#), by email to 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.