

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1445
Date: 27th July 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.

- 1. How many people in your area went missing between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022? Please provide the numbers broken down by ethnicity and by age in the following table. In this question we are asking for the number of individuals, not total incidents/investigations:**
- 2. How many total missing investigations were there between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022? Please provide the numbers broken down by ethnicity and by age in the following table:**

In response to questions one and two above, I can advise you that for the most part, the ethnicity of individuals reported as missing persons to Police Scotland is *not held* by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

To explain, there is a field within our system for this data to be captured but it is not mandatory and relates to a person's self-defined ethnicity - and so can also be completed when a person is traced.

For that reason, it has tended not to be completed in the vast majority of reports and therefore we cannot provide a breakdown of all missing person reports based on ethnicity.

If you would be interested in general data regarding missing persons, not including ethnicity data, please let us know.

- 3. Please provide a breakdown of the outcomes of missing investigations for children between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022, broken down by ethnicity.**
- 4. Please provide a breakdown of the outcomes of missing investigations for adults between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022, broken down by ethnicity.**

In response to questions three and four above, I would again advise you that for the most part, for the reasons set out above, the ethnicity of individuals reported as missing persons to Police Scotland is *not held* by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

If you would be interested in general data regarding missing person case outcomes, not including ethnicity data, please let us know. You should note however that we are unable to provide such data by age.

5. **How many missing investigations for children between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022, broken down by ethnicity, had a:**
6. **How many missing investigations for adults between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022, broken down by ethnicity, had a:**
 - a) **Sexual Exploitation marker**
 - b) **Mental health marker**
 - c) **Criminal Exploitation marker**
 - d) **Trafficking marker**

In response to questions five and six above, I can advise you that the categories listed do not align with markers used within the Police Scotland missing person database and so the information requested is *not held* by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies. Furthermore, for the reasons outlined above, ethnicity data is also *not held*.

If you would be interested in data regarding missing person reports which include our single marker *Sexual Exploitation/ Human Trafficking/ Prostitution* please let us know. You should note however that we may be unable to provide such data by age.

7. **Please provide the types of location from which the missing investigations for children were reported between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022, broken down by ethnicity.**
8. **Please provide the types of location from which the missing investigations for adults were reported between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022, broken down by ethnicity.**

In response to questions seven and eight above, I would again advise you that for the most part, for the reasons set out above, the ethnicity of individuals reported as missing persons to Police Scotland is *not held* by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

If you would be interested in general data regarding the loci people go missing from, not including ethnicity data, please let us know.

9. **Please provide the number of missing investigations for children between 1 April 2021 & 31 March 2022 which lasted more than 48 hours, broken down by ethnicity.**
10. **Please provide the number of missing investigations for adults between 1 April 2021 & 31 March 2022 which lasted more than 48 hours, broken down by ethnicity.**
11. **Please provide the number of missing investigations for children between 1 April 2021 & 31 March 2022 which lasted more than 7 days, broken down by ethnicity.**
12. **Please provide the number of missing investigations for adults between 1 April 2021 & 31 March 2022 which lasted more than 7 days, broken down by ethnicity.**

In response to questions nine to twelve above, I would again advise you that for the most part, for the reasons set out above, the ethnicity of individuals reported as missing persons to Police Scotland is *not held* by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

If you would be interested in general data regarding missing person case timescales, not including ethnicity data, please let us know.

OFFICIAL

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 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 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.