

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2075
Date: 24 October 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.

The current number of people on the Sex Offenders Register (as defined in the Sexual Offences Act 2003) as of the present date.

Protecting the public is a top priority for Police Scotland. In Scotland Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), provides a comprehensive response to a complex issue, using professional assessment and management to properly target resources at those who pose a risk to the public. Police Scotland works in partnership with a number of agencies through MAPPA to ensure that all Registered Sex Offenders are robustly managed within the community. While we can never eliminate risk entirely, we want to reassure communities that all reasonable steps are being taken to protect them.

The Violent & Sex Offender Register (ViSOR) is the UK database used to record information concerning the management of Registered Sex Offenders (RSO). What is commonly referred to as the Sex Offenders Register is actually the ViSOR database.

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.

Please be advised that Registered Sex Offender (RSO) numbers, are publicly available.

As such, in terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought. Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

- (a) states that it holds the information,
- (b) states that it is claiming an exemption,
- (c) specifies the exemption in question and
- (d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at Section 25(1) of the Act - information otherwise accessible:

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“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under Section 1(1) is exempt information”

The information you are seeking is available via the following link:

[Registered Sex Offender \(RSO\) Numbers - Police Scotland](#)

The number of notifications received by Police Scotland in relation to statutory requirements imposed on offenders under this Act. For example notifications about a change of address/whether they have a passport etc. Please provide this information for the financial years of 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 and break it down by type of notification if possible (address change/applying for a passport etc.)

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Initial	940	700	943
Periodic	3250	3360	3107
Name	161	162	198
Address	1504	1270	1375
Travel	665	128	282
Passport	175	83	123
Bank Account	1426	1507	1683

There may be additional notifications not included in these numbers who previously lived in the Police Scotland area but have since moved out with.

Initial Notifications can contain information on one or all of the required disclosures but are only recorded as the 1 notification.

Periodic Notifications can contain information on one or all of the required disclosures but are only recorded as the 1 notification.

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. 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.

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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.

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