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Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1199
Date: 13th June 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.

Tackling domestic abuse is a priority for Police Scotland and we are committed to working with our partners to reduce the harm it causes and ultimately eradicate it.

Domestic abuse is a despicable and debilitating crime which affects all of our communities and has no respect for ability, age, ethnicity, gender, race, religion or sexual orientation.

Police Scotland will not tolerate it.

Police Scotland will proactively target perpetrators and support victims to prevent domestic abuse from damaging the lives of victims and their families.

Police Scotland defines domestic abuse as:

“Any form of physical, verbal, sexual, psychological or financial abuse which might amount to criminal conduct and which takes place within the context of a relationship. The relationship will be between partners (married, cohabiting, civil partnership or otherwise) or ex-partners. The abuse may be committed in the home or elsewhere including online”

This definition is included in the Joint Protocol between Police Scotland and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS), “*In partnership challenging domestic abuse*” which is a public document that can be found at the Police Scotland website on <https://www.scotland.police.uk/> or on the COPFS website on <http://www.copfs.gov.uk/>.

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

- 1. How many MARAC referrals did you receive in 2021?**
- 2. How many MARAC referrals did you receive for women with learning disabilities (as differentiated from specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia) in 2021?**
- 3. How many MARAC referrals did you receive for women with learning disabilities (as differentiated from specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia) experiencing Gender-Based violence/ domestic abuse in 2021?**

Although Police Scotland make referrals into MARAC as well as attending and contributing to meetings we are not responsible for collating and manging MARAC referrals across the country. We therefore do not hold the information you have requested and I must advise

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that 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.

Whilst MARAC referrals are often lead by the local authority relevant to the parties involved, data in regards to MARAC referrals is co-ordinated by SafeLives and you may wish to contact them to see if they can provide you with the information you have requested. I note they also publish some data on their website and I have included a link to this below for your information along with a link to their contact page. The "Latest UK MARAC data" table contains information from Scotland as well as the rest of the UK.

<https://safelives.org.uk/practice-support/resources-marac-meetings/latest-marac-data>

<https://safelives.org.uk/about-us/contact-us>

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management 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.

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.