| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-0339  Responded to: xx February 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

For clarification purposes please first read the following information;

Having considered your request in terms of the above Act I can advise you that Police Scotland does not use the term ‘unsolved’ or “solved” but rather uses Resolved, Unresolved and Undetected:

Unresolved Homicides:

Unresolved homicides are considered those where:

(a) No suspect has been identified

(b) A suspect has been identified but not charged (no proceedings)

(c) A suspect has been identified and charged but not placed on petition (no proceedings)

(d) A suspect has appeared on petition but no indictment served due to there being considered an insufficiency of evidence at that time (no proceedings)

(e) A suspect has been indicted and a trial concluded which has resulted in an acquittal (Not Guilty/Not Proven)

(f) A suspect has been convicted but acquitted on appeal and no fresh prosecution has been authorised by the Appeal Court (Not Guilty)

(g) A suspect has committed suicide prior to trial and no other person is being sought in connection with the case.

(h) A suspect has been charged then reported and is awaiting trial.

Furthermore many homicides (particularly those committed during the last few years during the Covid 19 pandemic) are still awaiting court proceedings to bring them to a legal conclusion. In this regard Police Scotland categorise and record these homicides as **unresolved**.

Undetected Homicides:

Undetected Homicides are those cases where no person has been **formally identified as an accused** or **charged** with the offence.

## 1. How many homicides remain unsolved in Scotland?

## What date does this go back to?

I can report that information held on the Scottish Homicide Database dates back to 01 January 1960.

On that basis, between 01 January 1960 and 07 February 2024 there are currently:

Unresolved homicides = 1289

Undetected homicides = \*62

\*The total of 62 is also included in the Unresolved total as Undetected is a sub classification of Unresolved, these figures include both Murders and Culpable Homicides.

## 2. How many homicides in Scotland have remained unsolved for more than 20 years?

Since 01/01/1960 and 07/02/2004, 881 of these homicides have remained unresolved and fit within the criteria of the question posed..

Since 01/01/1960 and 07/02/2004, 56 of these homicides have remained undetected and fit within the criteria of the question posed.

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.