

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2711  
Date: 19 January 2023



## 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 individual people were reported missing to your force between April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 – March 31<sup>st</sup> 2022? Please provide the numbers for children and adults separately.**

Children-2886 Adults-5311

- 2. How many total missing incidents were reported to your force between April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 – March 31<sup>st</sup> 2022? Please provide the numbers for children and adults separately.**

Children-4761 Adults-6048

- 3. Please provide a breakdown of the number of incidents that were assessed as high risk, medium risk, low risk, and absent (no apparent risk) between April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 – March 31<sup>st</sup> 2022. We are looking for this data for both children and adults.**

Children – low-319 medium-4023 high-419  
Adults- low-950 medium-3438 high-1660

- 4. How many missing incidents resulted in a fatality between April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 – March 31<sup>st</sup> 2022? Please provide the numbers for children and adults separately.**

Children-2  
Adults-134

- b) Please could you share the causes of death in those fatal cases. *If it is not possible to provide this information within the limitations on Freedom of Information requests, please disregard this questions and answer only those above.***

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In accordance with Sections 12(1) (Excessive cost of compliance) and 16(4) (Refusal of request) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (the Act), this letter represents a Refusal Notice.

By way of explanation, it is not standard practice to record when a missing person is found deceased to record on the missing person's report the cause of death. Therefore each report would have to be manually examined to establish whether a cause of death has been recorded. When no cause has been recorded further enquiries would need to be made with other departments within Police Scotland.

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.

**5. How many individual people were reported missing to your force between April 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 – September 30<sup>th</sup> 2022? Please provide the numbers for children and adults separately.**

Children-1914  
Adults-2898

**6. How many total missing incidents were reported to your force between April 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 – September 30<sup>th</sup> 2022? Please provide the numbers for children and adults separately.**

Children-2931  
Adults-3191

**7. Please provide a breakdown of the number of incidents that were assessed as high risk, medium risk, low risk, and absent (no apparent risk) between April 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 – September 30<sup>th</sup> 2022. We are looking for this data for both children and adults.**

Children- low-170 medium-2522 high-239  
Adults-low-399 medium-1922 high-870

**8. How many missing incidents resulted in a fatality between April 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 – September 30<sup>th</sup> 2022? Please provide the numbers for children and adults separately.**

Children-2  
Adults-55

**b) Please could you share the causes of death in those fatal cases. *If it is not possible to provide this information within the limitations on Freedom of Information requests, please disregard this questions and answer only those above.***

Please see the response to question 4b.

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Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee at [foidundee@scotland.police.uk](mailto:foidundee@scotland.police.uk) 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](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalarnock, 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](mailto: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.

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