| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-0608  Responded to: 04 March 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

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.

**1. For the five years 2020-2024, can you please tell me how many people have been added to the sex offenders register?**

Please note it is important to understand that an offender who has received a conviction or finding, in respect of a specified sexual offence under Schedule 3 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, is automatically subject to the Notification Requirements of Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and identified as a Registered Sex Offender (RSO).

The application of the Notification Requirements commonly referred to as Sex Offender Notification Requirements (SONR) is not a sentencing option for the court but an automatic consequence of conviction for a relevant sexual offence.

The length of time a RSO is subject to the SONR is dictated by the sentence issued for that conviction and age at time of conviction. The notification periods are dictated by Section 82 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

The Violent & Sex Offender Register (ViSOR), is the UK wide Home Office database used to record information concerning the management and monitoring of persons identified as a RSO.

Police Scotland create the ViSOR records of RSO’s convicted in a Scottish Court of a relevant offence, and between 2020 and 2024 Police Scotland created 5,557 new ViSOR records for RSO’s.

This figure does not include RSO’s created by other UK forces and transferred to Police Scotland, or person made subject to a Notification Order by any court in the UK. The figure does not represent persons already subject to the notification requirements and convicted of a further relevant offence.

**2. Can you break these figures down by each year?**

This figure is broken down in years as follows.2020 – 658

2021 – 959

2022 – 1,096

2023 – 1,338

2024 – 1,506

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](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) 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.