| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2603  Responded to: 25 October 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Please release the following information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act - Osman letters sent to alert potential murder victims.

## By month January 2019 to December 2023.

The police have an obligation to take all reasonable steps to protect the lives of people where there is a “real and immediate” risk to them from the criminal acts of another. To clarify further, such incidents which are classed as being a ‘real and immediate’ risk; and where the serving of notices is deemed appropriate are documented, for example:

Threat to life warning notice – Would be considered for issue to a potential “victim” where it is assessed there is credible intelligence that there is a viable threat to that person’s life.

Personal safety advice warning notice – Would be considered where it is assessed there is credible intelligence that a person may be at risk of personal injury.

Disruption notice and Disruption Interview Notices – Would be considered for issue to potential perpetrators where there is credible intelligence that persons may be involved in a criminal act.

In response to your request, it is important to ensure that the terminology ‘Osman Warnings’ is interpreted accurately i.e. as a Threat to Life (TTL) warning notice when intelligence exists that there is a viable threat to life. For absolute clarity on this matter, TTL Warning Notices and Personal Safety Advice Warning Notices are only issued to potential victims who have been fully identified.

To be of assistance, I can provide the following:

| **Year** | **Threat to Life Warnings** | **Personal Safety Advice Notices** | **Threat to Life Disruption Notices** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **2019** | 17 | 162 | 181 |
| **2020** | 18 | 161 | 186 |
| **2021** | 20 | 152 | 165 |
| **2022** | 16 | 149 | 130 |

## For each of these years how many of those were sent to male and females.

In relation to gender and whether specifically for potential murder victims, 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.

The exemption(s) as explained above which I consider to be applicable to the information requested by you is/are as follows:

Section 38(1)(b) – Personal Information

Section 35 (1) (a) & (b) – Law Enforcement

Section 39 (1) – Health, Safety and the Environment

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.