| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1250  Responded to: 08 June 2025 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I’m looking to find out more about trafficking in Inverclyde and what action police have taken to tackle it. Could you please provide me with the following information:**

1. **Please provide the number of people in Inverclyde in the last four years (2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 YTD) who Police Scotland has made referrals for because it suspects they are victims of human trafficking and exploitation.**
2. **For the figures above, please indicate the number of people referred who are a) male b) female c) children**

Please note that data is recorded per division and the table below therefore includes all of K Division, which covers Inverclyde and Renfrewshire.

*National Referral Mechanism Referrals - K division -**01/01/2022 – 18/04/2025*

| **Year** | **Male** | **Female** | **Child** | **Total** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2022 | 17 | 5 | 4 | 22 |
| 2023 | 41 | 16 | 9 | 57 |
| 2024 | 21 | 9 | 9 | 30 |
| 2025 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 8 |

1. **For the figures in 1, please provide the reasons identified for trafficking (e.g. domestic servitude, labour exploitation, forced criminality) and the country they are believed to have been trafficked from.**

*Human Trafficking reasons identified - K division -**01/01/2022 – 18/04/2025*

| **Reason identified** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** | **2025** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Forced criminality | 10 | 26 | 21 | 4 |
| Labour Exploitation | 6 | 19 | 7 | 2 |
| Sexual Exploitation | 3 | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| Domestic Servitude | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Unknown | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Trafficking/ Smuggling | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Other exploitation | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |

*Trafficking country of origin - K division -**01/01/2022 – 18/04/2025*

| **Trafficking country of origin** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** | **2025** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Albania | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| China |  | 2 |  |  |
| Ghana | 1 |  |  |  |
| Iran | 1 | 1 |  |  |
| Kenya |  | 2 |  |  |
| Namibia |  | 1 |  |  |
| Pakistan |  |  | 1 |  |
| Romania | 1 |  |  |  |
| Somalia |  | 3 |  |  |
| Tanzania | 1 | 8 |  |  |
| UK | 2 |  | 6 | 1 |
| Unknown | 2 | 1 |  |  |
| Vietnam | 11 | 36 | 20 | 6 |

**4. Please provide any documents or correspondence relating to plans that the local police division has put in place to take action on human trafficking locally (minutes of meetings, action plans, memos, etc).**

As you may be aware, there was recently an extensive enquiry into brothel keeping, human trafficking and serious and organised crime offences in Greenock, which resulted in a man and a woman have been arrested and charged with being involved in brothel keeping in September 2024 - [Two people charged in connection with brothel keeping in Greenock - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/news/2024/september/two-people-charged-in-connection-with-brothel-keeping-in-greenock/)

It is our interpretation of your request that you are not seeking information connected to this or any similar investigations specifically (given such information would almost certainly attract exemption) but that your request is more general in nature.

Human trafficking has no place in Scotland.

We will continue target criminals who abuse, control and exploit people, working with partners nationally and internationally to bring offenders to justice, and to raise public awareness to help identify victims and ensure they get the support they need.

People within local communities are often the first to spot when someone may be trafficked or is being exploited and we could encourage members of the public to contact us if they have any concerns.

Further information is available online - [Human Trafficking - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-information/human-trafficking/)

The [Inverclyde Local Policing Plan](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/5ibmhmjy/inverclyde-local-policing-plan-2023-26.docx) also sets out in more general terms how protecting the vulnerable is a key priority for the Division.

Beyond that, unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request.

I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

The only way we could research you request is to try to search for ‘Human Trafficking’ across the relevant network drive areas and mailboxes within the division and that is likely to result in extensive information being identified - not least because of the recent Human Trafficking Operations within the division.

There is no straightforward means by which any such information could be split into ‘plans’ or other types of information.

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.