| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1686  Responded to: 13th July 2023 |
| --- | --- |

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

## Could you please tell me how many people went missing in the Highlands and Aberdeenshire in the last 6 years?

I must first of all advise you that Police Scotland’s National Missing Persons Unit (NMPU) can provide figures which are held on the National Missing Persons Application from the last four years only. This new application was incorporated nationally on the 1st April 2019.

For the period prior to the 1st April 2019, legacy systems were used across Police Scotland and as such, information simply cannot be gathered accurately so it is not possible to provide the figures for this period requested.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request. 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 for this period.

The table below provides the number of Missing Persons within the Aberdeenshire North East Division (A), and the Highlands and Islands Division (N) from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2023.

| **Year** | **North East Division** | **Highlands & Islands Division** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2019/20 | 922 | 1,035 |
| 2020/21 | 571 | 572 |
| 2021/2022 | 873 | 805 |
| 2022/23 | 1,003 | 962 |

## Out of those missing persons, could you please tell me how many had dementia or Alzheimer's?

## Could you please tell me how many of the missing persons in the Highlands and Aberdeenshire with dementia cases resulted in the missing person being found alive in the last 5 years?

## Could you please tell me how many missing persons in the highlands and Aberdeenshire with dementia or Alzheimer's are still missing?

## Could you please tell me how many people per year over the last 6 years have used the Herbert Protocol in Scotland and the highlands?

Having considered your request in terms of the above Act, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

To explain, the National Missing Persons Application has no search facility available which would allow for the automatic retrieval of this level of information.

The only possible way to provide you with an accurate response would be to carry out case by case assessment of all missing person reports listed above and extract the requested details.

As illustrated, this would involve individually examining a vast number of reports, which is an exercise that I estimate would far exceed the £600 cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

As such, 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 for this period.

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.