| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-1623Responded to: 18 June 2025 |
| --- | --- |

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 (RSO) 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.

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

**For the 2024-25 calendar year, how many individuals on the Sex Offenders Register have notified authorities of a change in their legal gender?**

**Of those who have changed gender: 1) How many were originally recorded as male and changed to female? 2) How many were originally recorded as female and changed to male?**

**For any of these individuals, were there changes in the risk management procedures, supervision levels, or conditions of monitoring as a result of the gender change?**

An individual who has received a conviction or finding in respect of a specified 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.

Following conviction, the individual, referred to as a RSO must attend a Prescribed Police Station within 3 days of either conviction for the offence which placed them on “the register” or of being released from custody following this conviction and provide notifiable information.  In addition, the individual is required to attend a Prescribed Police Station should any of this notifiable information change.  There is also a requirement for a periodic (annual) notification by the individual.  All the relevant requirements are set out in the aforementioned legislation.

An individuals’ gender is not a requirement of the notifiable information as set out in the legislation and as such, a RSO does not need to provide Police Scotland with confirmation of their gender or whether they have changed their gender.

Whilst Police Scotland may record whether an RSO has disclosed their gender identify on the ViSOR (Violent and Sex Offender Register) system, it is not a required field and not always completed and as such, it is not possible to conduct a search which would automatically retrieve this information.  The only way to provide any information around this would be to individually examine the records for each RSO in Scotland and establish whether they have disclosed their gender identity.  As of 1st June 2025, there were 5,372 RSO’s being managed in the community by Police Scotland.  Unfortunately, I estimate it would cost in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process the request.  I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

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 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 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.