

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2646  
Date: 20 December 2022



## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002**

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

**How many woman who reported the behaviour of an abusive partner, ex-partner or stalker to police went on to be killed by that individual?**

**Please supply figures for 2015-16; 2016-17; 2017-18; 2018-19; 2019-20; 2020-21 and 2021-22.**

In response to your request I must advise you that if held, any such information would be contained within numerous reporting databases. Every potential report would have to be read to obtain details to ascertain if the person reported for the murder was the same person detailed on the record for any previous offending. Police systems such as iVPD, Storm, SID and crime management would need to be accessed to cross reference the details in each case. Furthermore and for clarification your request mentions "stalker" the police definition is –

"Two or more behaviours directed towards a victim which cause, are intended to cause, or where the perpetrator's behaviour is reckless as to whether it causes, the victim to suffer fear and alarm." 'Fear and alarm' is physical or psychological harm. It is also fear for your safety.

Given the potential timeframe for such reports, I am also conscious that any such reporting may predate the inception of Police Scotland on 1 April 2013, and consequently it would be extremely problematic to revisit any dataset which was a consolidation of records held by legacy divisions.

Accordingly 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. 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.

As such, and 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.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee at [foidundee@scotland.police.uk](mailto:foidundee@scotland.police.uk) quoting the reference number given.

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If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to [foi@scotland.police.uk](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalrnarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.

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