| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1716  Responded to: 11 June 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Q1 The response makes reference to ‘perpetrators’ and yet the Joint Protocol uses the language ‘suspects’ and ‘accused’.**

**Does police use of the language ‘perpetrator’ imply guilt?**

**Q2 The response refers to approaching ‘potential victims’ in cases of ‘serial perpetrators’. What assessment is made about an ex partner of a suspect being a ‘potential victim’ before being approached?**

It should be noted that the above request is a follow up to FOI 25-1366 and I must advise the information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

By way of explanation, as you may be aware, the Act provides a right of access to recorded information only.  Questions seeking the creation of comment or opinion in relation to a particular query, are not therefore valid in terms of [section 8 of the Act](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2002/13/section/8).

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.