| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1939  Responded to: 24 June 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Asylum status of suspects charged with a sexual offence or offences against a child victim or victims, where the case involved two or more offenders or suspected offenders, broken down as follows:**

* **Number of suspects who were seeking asylum in the UK at the time of charge**
* **Number of suspects who were neither seeking asylum at the time of charge, nor were known to have previously sought asylum in the UK**
* **Number of suspects who had been granted asylum in the UK at the time of charge**
* **Number of suspects who had been refused asylum in the UK at the time of charge**

**Timeframe: Information on suspects charged in the last three calendar years (January 2022 to January 2025). If that is not possible, please provide information on suspects charged in the last three financial years (March 2022 to March 2025). If that is not possible, please provide the most recent 12 months’ worth of data that you can retrieve.**

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) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

By way of explanation, there are no markers etc on our systems that would indicate that the accused was an asylum seeker/ refugee at the time of the offence. As such the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to individually examine every crime report for the time period requested - an exercise which would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

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.