| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-0178  Responded to: xx February 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Could you please provide a list of all the unresolved homicides Police Scotland currently has open from 1960 onwards?

## In each case can you state the name of the victim, date of the murder and the original investigating force please?

## In addition could those cases currently considered undetected please be highlighted?

Having considered your request in terms of the above Act, please be advised that Police Scotland use the following terms of reference;

**Unresolved Homicides**:

Unresolved homicides are considered those where:

(a) No suspect has been identified

(b) A suspect has been identified but not charged (no proceedings)

(c) A suspect has been identified and charged but not placed on petition (no proceedings)

(d) A suspect has appeared on petition, but no indictment served due to there being considered an insufficiency of evidence at that time (no proceedings)

(e) A suspect has been indicted and a trial concluded which has resulted in an acquittal (Not Guilty/Not Proven)

(f) A suspect has been convicted but acquitted on appeal and no fresh prosecution has been authorised by the Appeal Court (Not Guilty)

(g) A suspect has committed suicide prior to trial and no other person is being sought in connection with the case.

**Undetected Homicides**:

Undetected Homicides are those cases where no person has been formally identified as an accused or charged with the offence.

The distinction is important as many homicides are still awaiting court proceedings to bring them to a legal conclusion. In this regard Police Scotland categorise and record these homicides as unresolved.

Homicide Governance and Review (HGR) conduct reviews of any undetected/unresolved homicides or other major crime investigations to identify any investigative opportunities. Members of the department ensure consistency of approach, identify best practice nationally and internationally and promote continuous improvement. This is supported by the debrief process for all homicides and other significant death enquiries which identifies areas for Organisational Learning and Development.

Homicide Governance and Review (HGR) also work in close partnership with COPFS and SPA Forensic Services to review and investigate historic and unresolved homicide enquiries in order to ascertain if there are any new evidential developments, including advances in forensic techniques, which could assist in providing a basis for criminal proceedings.

Please note that the dataset includes all unresolved homicides, including those which have been recorded with a crime classification of Culpable Homicide*.*

From 01/01/1960 to 05/02/2024 there were currently 1288 unresolved homicides resulting in 1303 victims.

From 01/01/1960 to 05/02/2024 there are 62 undetected homicides.

This data is subject to continuous review, updates and change.

On that basis the requested information is attached.

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.