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Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1213
Date: 18th July 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.

Tackling domestic abuse is a priority for Police Scotland and we are committed to working with our partners to reduce the harm it causes and ultimately eradicate it.

Domestic abuse is a despicable and debilitating crime which affects all of our communities and has no respect for ability, age, ethnicity, gender, race, religion or sexual orientation.

Police Scotland will not tolerate it.

Police Scotland will proactively target perpetrators and support victims to prevent domestic abuse from damaging the lives of victims and their families.

Police Scotland defines domestic abuse as:

“Any form of physical, verbal, sexual, psychological or financial abuse which might amount to criminal conduct and which takes place within the context of a relationship. The relationship will be between partners (married, cohabiting, civil partnership or otherwise) or ex-partners. The abuse may be committed in the home or elsewhere including online”

This definition is included in the Joint Protocol between Police Scotland and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS), “In partnership challenging domestic abuse” which is a public document that can be found at the Police Scotland website on <https://www.scotland.police.uk/> or on the COPFS website on <http://www.copfs.gov.uk/>.

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

- 1. Of the reported domestic abuse incidents between 2017-2021 how many of the victims were pregnant?**
- 2. How many reports of Forced or Coercive termination of pregnancy were reported to police Scotland during that same period (2017-2021)?**
- 3. Of those reported incidents how many of those resulted in the perpetrator being charged with an offence?**
- 4. If Police Scotland does not currently keep such statistics on domestic violence in pregnancy, what is the reason for this?**

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Following a clarification request as initial enquiries indicated that question 2 may result in an excessive cost of compliance exemption being applied, you confirmed that if this was the case, using the answer to question 1 as the basis for question 3 would also be acceptable.

1. Of the reported domestic abuse incidents between 2017-2021 how many of the victims were pregnant?

Please find the requested information in table 1 of the attached spreadsheet. I would ask you to note the caveats below the table.

2. How many reports of Forced or Coercive termination of pregnancy were reported to Police Scotland during that same period (2017-2021)?

In response to your request, 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.

By way of explanation, whilst the requested information will be recorded within individual reports on our public protection system (iVPD) we do not have a specific marker that would allow these to be automatically retrieved. This means that each of the records identified in answer to question 1 would need to be manually reviewed to confirm if they related to the forced or coercive termination of pregnancy.

In this case 7,310 records would need to be manually checked. At a conservative estimate of 5 minutes per record, this equates to over 609 hours of work to provide the information requested.

Police Scotland have assessed that the £600 cost limit within the Act equates to 40 hours of work and so this part of your request would breach the cost threshold.

Whilst I would normally suggest that a reduced timescale is considered, in this case, even taking a single year such as 2021 would take over 122 hours of work to retrieve the requested information and therefore exceed the cost limit.

3. Of those reported incidents how many of those resulted in the perpetrator being charged with an offence?

As discussed during clarification, as question 2 has resulted in an excessive cost exemption being applied, I have used the answer to question 1 as the basis for this question.

Please find the requested information in table 2 of the attached spreadsheet. I would ask you to note the caveats below the table but I would draw your particular attention to the fact that these statistics relate to any domestic incident where a pregnancy marker is attached

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to the incident and a crime is attached. As the marker is applied to the incident and not the crime, the marker may not be specifically relevant to the crime.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management quoting the reference number given.

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.pnn.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, 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 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.