| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-0240  Responded to: 30 January 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1)      How many ‘open’ or ‘inactive’/ ‘cold’ missing persons cases are currently under your constabulary? (Inactive meaning at least 1 year old).

Police Scotland currently have 142 live cases which are at least one year old – Long Term Missing Person, which are part of the review cycle.

(Figures taken from the National Missing Person Application, 26/01/2024, this is a live system and subject to change)

## 2)      What reasons are there as to why missing persons cases are still unsolved? i.e., funding, lack of resources, no new evidence, no body etc.

There are numerous reasons that missing persons investigations remain unsolved. Police Scotland investigate each case on its own merits using a person centred approach following all apparent lines of enquiry.

## 3)      Are there any policies and procedures that your constabulary uses specifically for ‘inactive’ missing persons cases? If yes, what are they?

All missing person investigations remain open until a resolution is found.

Where no apparent lines of investigation remain, for example where we believe someone has been lost at sea, DNA will be uploaded on the appropriate database, therefore if a body/part is recovered Police are able to attribute that to the corresponding investigation to give the missing persons family closure.

## 4)      Which individuals are involved in the reviews of ‘inactive’ missing persons cases? I.e., Review Officer, Senior Investigating Officer, Crime Scene Manager, Forensic Scientist etc.

Long Term Missing Person Reviews are conducted by an officer who is trained as a Senior Investigation Officer (SIO), albeit they may delegate tasks within that review to other officers/specialists as they deem fit. Police Scotland’s National Missing Person Unit manage the yearly reviews for long term missing persons investigations, by notifying the owning division and collating the responses.

## 5)      Does your constabulary work closely with other organisations when reviewing ‘inactive’ missing persons cases? If so, which organisations? And what do they do to help?

Police Scotland use a person centred approach to investigate missing persons, as such every enquiry is directed by the Senior Investigating Officer. They may seek the advice and support of other organisations when appropriate. For instance the use of MissingPeople.org for family support and media appeals.

## 6)      What charities does your constabulary have access to for inactive missing persons cases? If so, what charities? And what do these charities do to help aid a long-term missing person’s case review?

We do not hold a list of charities used within Scotland. As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

Police Scotland use a person centred approach to investigate missing persons, as such every enquiry is directed by the Senior Investigating Officer. They may seek the advice and support of other organisations when appropriate.

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.