| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0109  Responded to: 26 January 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Please could you tell me how many registered sex offenders in your force area were classed as missing/whereabouts unknown/wanted in each of the following years: 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022.

A missing person is defined as anyone whose whereabouts is unknown and:

* where the circumstances are out of character or
* the context suggests the person may be subject to crime or
* the person is at risk of harm to themselves or another.

A wanted Registered Sex Offender (RSO) is defined as those who are subject to the notification requirements of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and who have a live warrant in force. Police Scotland treats all missing and wanted RSOs with the utmost seriousness and will carry out all possible enquiries to trace their whereabouts and to re-establish the management required to protect the public. On all occasions a Senior Investigating Officer (SIO) of a rank no less than Inspector will be appointed to lead these investigations.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, Police Scotland, on a monthly basis, publish data regarding the number of RSOs in our communities, broken down by policing division and postcode area.

Information regarding “Wanted” or “Missing” RSOs is also published via the link below:

[Registered Sex Offender Information](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/police-scotland/specialist-crime-division/sex-offender-policing-units/registered-sex-offender-rso-information/)

Police Scotland is committed to keeping people safe. Our focus is on the protection of those at risk of harm through prevention, early intervention and the robust investigation of those who pose such a risk. We fulfil our role as a Responsible Authority in the delivery of MAPPA providing effective and efficient management of RSOs and Other Risk of Serious Harm Offenders.

This is achieved through each of Police Scotland’s 13 local policing Divisions having a dedicated Sex Offender Policing Unit (SOPU) with specialist officers working in partnership to police and reduce the risk posed by such offenders.

While we can never eliminate risk entirely, we want to reassure communities that all reasonable steps are being taken to protect them.

## For each of these missing sex offenders, could you tell me the following:

## What the risk level is of each (i.e. low, medium or high risk, or in whatever way you record this)

## Whether they are believed to be abroad, in the UK, or your in your force area (if possible)

In response to these questions, I can advise you of the following;

2018

44 RSOs recorded as “wanted” or “missing” (12 carried over from the previous year). 28 were believed to be within the UK and 16 believed to have travelled abroad.

High Risk – 19, Medium Risk – 15, Low Risk – 9, Not Yet Assessed – 1

2019

36 RSOs recorded as “wanted” or “missing” (15 carried over from the previous year). 14 were believed to be within the UK and 22 believed to have travelled abroad.

High Risk – 16, Medium Risk – 14, Low Risk – 6

2020

40 RSOs recorded as “wanted” or “missing” (17 carried over from the previous year). 19 were believed to be within the UK and 21 believed to have travelled abroad.

High Risk – 16, Medium Risk – 18, Low Risk – 6

2021

36 RSOs recorded as “wanted” or “missing” (15 carried over from the previous year). 16 were believed to be within the UK and 20 believed to have travelled abroad.

High Risk – 14, Medium Risk – 17, Low Risk – 5

2022

30 RSOs recorded as “wanted” or “missing” (17 carried over from the previous year). 15 were believed to be within the UK and 15 believed to have travelled abroad.

High Risk – 11, Medium Risk – 18, Low Risk – 1

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.