| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-2852  Responded to: 26th September 2025 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Please provide the following information for the period 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024.**

1. **How many individual children (those aged 0 – 17) were reported missing in your policing area?**

In Scotland, 3,457 children (aged 17 and under) were reported and recorded as missing over the 2024 calendar year.

1. **How many missing incidents were reported in relation to those missing children (those aged 0 – 17)?**
2. **How many of those missing incidents had a:**
3. **Sexual exploitation marker**
4. **Mental health marker**
5. **Criminal exploitation marker**
6. **Trafficking marker**
7. **In how many incidents was there evidence of harm having occurred?**
8. **In how many of those incidents in question 4 was the harm:**
9. **Physical**
10. **Sexual**
11. **Self-harm**
12. **Suicide**
13. **Emotional / psychological**
14. **If you routinely record another type of risk marker / type of harm that is not listed here, please also include that information and the number of incidents in which it was recorded**

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process parts 2-6 of your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

* 1. To explain, In order to establish the circumstances surrounding these cases, each record would need to be examined individually, which would exceed the time investment exemption. It is estimated that to do so would take approximately 192 hours to complete.

If it is of interest, Missing Persons Investigation numbers per area, since April 2019, can be accessed online. Please see the Police Scotland Performance reports (Aggregated File Non Crime) via the following address: [How we are performing - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/)

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.