| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-0575  Responded to: 12 March 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Can you please for each calendar year 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024, how many complaints of sexual assault were made against serving police officers at the force (complaints against police officers serving the force at the time of complaint)?

## For each complaint, please provide the rank of police officer facing complaint, the police officer's sex, if the complainant was a member of the public or a colleague, and the outcome (ie No further action, management action, charged, under investigation etc).

The Police Scotland [Complaints About the Police Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/fifhh5vo/complaints-about-the-police-sop.pdf) outlines how we deal with complaints and they are categorised as per appendices C and D of that document.

There can be one or more allegations contained within one complaint case and equally, there can be one or more subject officers relative to each allegation. Subject officers are counted once per case, however the same officer may be subject to multiple cases and therefore may appear more than once. Each case may involve multiple allegations, and each allegation may be linked to multiple subject officers.

Please note that criminal allegation categories recorded on Professional Standards database have recently been updated on 01 April 2024 to align to the current [Scottish Crime Recording Standards](https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/factsheet/2022/08/scottish-crime-recording-standard-crime-recording-counting-rules/documents/scottish-crime-recording-standard-crime-recording-counting-rules/scottish-crime-recording-standard-crime-recording-counting-rules/govscot%3Adocument/scottish-crime-recording-standard-crime-recording-counting-rules.pdf) (SCRS). Data recorded prior to this date may therefore not align with the current SCRS and this may impact on specific criminal categories, in terms of how they have been recorded on the Professional Standards database prior to this date.

Data has been provided below which details the number of allegations attached to complaints received 01 January 2020 – 31 December 2024 inclusive, linked to Police officers only, which fall under the definition of ‘Sexual Assault’ set out in the Scottish Crime Recording Standards.

Thereafter, figures are provided which detail the allegation results, the rank and sex of the subject officers, and the person type breakdown of the complainers linked to these specific allegations.

Please note, with regards to the allegation results aspect, that allegations received may remain subject to live enquiry and/or legal proceedings. Therefore, allegations received may not yet be resulted.

## Table 1: Sexual assault allegations received (complaints), by calendar year 1 2

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Allegation sub type | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| Sexual Assault - total | 8 | 14 | 17 | 13 | 19 |

1 Data is based on the case received date.

2 Data is based on allegations linked to Police officers only as subject officers.

## Table 2: Sexual assault allegations received (complaints), by allegation result and calendar year 1

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Allegation Result | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| Abandoned | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Not Upheld - Concluded by explanation | 1 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| Not Upheld - Insufficient evidence | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Not upheld - Leading to No Proceedings by APF | 5 | 10 | 7 | 4 | 1 |
| Upheld - Leading to misconduct disposal | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Withdrawn | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Ongoing - not yet resulted | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 14 |
| Total | 8 | 14 | 17 | 13 | 19 |

1 Data is based on the case received date.

2 Data is based on allegations linked to Police officers only as subject officers.

## Table 3: Subject officers linked to sexual assault allegations received (complaints), by rank and calendar year 1 2 3

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Rank | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| Constable | 8 | 15 | 12 | 9 | 8 |
| Sergeant or above | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 8 | 15 | 12 | 10 | 8 |

1 Data is based on the case received date.

2 Data is based on allegations linked to Police officers only as subject officers.

3 Each allegation may be linked to multiple subject officers, therefore the number of subject officers may vary from the number of allegations.

## Table 4: Subject officers linked to sexual assault allegations received (complaints), by sex and calendar year 1 2 3

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sex | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| Female | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Male | 4 | 14 | 10 | 9 | 4 |
| Grand Total | 8 | 15 | 12 | 10 | 8 |

1 Data is based on the case received date.

2 Data is based on allegations linked to Police officers only as subject officers.

3 Each allegation may be linked to multiple subject officers, therefore the number of subject officers may vary from the number of allegations.

## Table 5: Complainers linked to sexual assault allegations received (complaints), by person type and calendar year 1 2 3

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Person Type | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| Police Officer | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Public | 7 | 15 | 17 | 13 | 18 |
| Grand Total | 8 | 15 | 17 | 13 | 18 |

1 Data is based on the case received date.

2 Data is based on allegations linked to Police officers only as subject officers.

3 Each allegation may be linked to multiple complainers, therefore the number of complainers may vary from the number of allegations.

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](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) 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.