| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0756  Responded to: 26th April 2023 |
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Your request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding.

Having considered your request in terms of the Act, I would first of all advise you that the formal disciplinary process for Police Officers is governed by [The Police Service of Scotland (Conduct) Regulations 2014](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.legislation.gov.uk%2Fssi%2F2014%2F68%2Fcontents%2Fmade&data=05%7C01%7Cfoidundee%40scotland.police.uk%7C62cc263a61fd4c2b327208db2bbf2422%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638151872282913448%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=k4DKVIMkQY7ZGQMOA2LCkN9%2Fd3yjMYwus3hU6sjZOH4%3D&reserved=0).

The Police Service of Scotland (Conduct) Regulations 2014 [Scottish Government Guidance Document](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.scot%2Fbinaries%2Fcontent%2Fdocuments%2Fgovscot%2Fpublications%2Ffactsheet%2F2018%2F04%2Fconduct-and-performance-procedures-police-guidance%2Fdocuments%2Fpolice-guidance-conduct-procedures%2Fpolice-guidance-conduct-procedures%2Fgovscot%253Adocument%2FPolice%252BService%252Bof%252BScotland%252B%252528conduct%252529%252Bregulations%252B2014.pdf&data=05%7C01%7Cfoidundee%40scotland.police.uk%7C62cc263a61fd4c2b327208db2bbf2422%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638151872283069674%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=8dHUajaYxGDgDnnUipwzTTWUUF8A%2FMxQwLAchxVRMPQ%3D&reserved=0) provides further information on the Conduct process and conduct cases are categorised and recorded in line with our [Standards of Professional Behaviour](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.scotland.police.uk%2Fabout-us%2Fwho-we-are%2Four-standards-of-professional-behaviour%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cfoidundee%40scotland.police.uk%7C62cc263a61fd4c2b327208db2bbf2422%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638151872283069674%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=4eraZ6%2FuCTLxX3%2FYk8H5HhtX7GqODhlI941OF%2BOAcKQ%3D&reserved=0).

A ‘social media’ circumstance marker can be appended to an allegation in a conduct case to denote a social media element. This applies to any allegation relating to the on or off duty conduct of a Police Scotland officer to which an element of social media usage by the subject officer can be attributed.

Please note that the definition of ‘social media’ broadly refers to “websites and applications that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking”. Examples include WhatsApp, Facebook (including Messenger), TikTok, Instagram and Snapchat. This is not an exhaustive list and may include other messaging services. Routine text messages, in themselves, would not constitute a relevant instance of social media use.

The order of your questions has been amended for ease of response.

## Could you confirm the number of officers disciplined or dismissed for content posted on social media from 2021-2022?

It is interpreted that 'disciplined or dismissed’ in this context refers to formal or management action disposals in relation to allegations involving a social media circumstance. Formal actions include dismissal from the service.

It should also be noted that the Police Service of Scotland (Conduct) Regulations 2014 cease to apply in the event an officer retires or resigns as they only apply to serving officers.

A total of 41 Police Officers have been subject to formal or management action in relation to allegations involving a social media circumstance closed between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2022 inclusive.

1. **Could you confirm the number of officers disciplined or dismissed for having Only Fans accounts [or for posting sexually explicit images online] from 2021-2022?**

No officers have been disciplined or dismissed relating to the Only Fans platform.

Between 2021 and 2022, 6 officers have been disciplined or dismissed in relation to the posting of indecent images online.

None of the allegations related to the Only Fans platform.

## Could you confirm the number of officers disciplined or dismissed for content posted on social media from 2017-2018?

1. **Could you confirm the number of officers disciplined or dismissed for having Only Fans accounts [or for posting sexually explicit images online] from 2017-2018?**

Again, it is interpreted that 'disciplined or dismissed’ in this context refers to formal or management action disposals in relation to allegations involving a social media circumstance. Formal actions include dismissal from service.

A total of 15 Police Officers have been subject to formal or management action in relation to allegations involving a social media circumstance closed between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2018 inclusive.

None of the allegations involved the posting of indecent images online.

None of the allegations related to the Only Fans platform.

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.