

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1031
Date: 23rd June 2022



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Please accept our apologies for the delay in providing a response.

Your review request, on the grounds that we had thus far failed to respond to your request is acknowledged and will be responded to separately.

For ease of reference, your original request is replicated below together with the response.

Tackling domestic abuse is a priority for Police Scotland and we are committed to working with our partners to reduce the harm it causes and ultimately eradicate it.

Domestic abuse is a despicable and debilitating crime which affects all of our communities and has no respect for ability, age, ethnicity, gender, race, religion or sexual orientation.

Police Scotland will not tolerate it.

Police Scotland will proactively target perpetrators and support victims to prevent domestic abuse from damaging the lives of victims and their families.

Police Scotland defines domestic abuse as:

“Any form of physical, verbal, sexual, psychological or financial abuse which might amount to criminal conduct and which takes place within the context of a relationship. The relationship will be between partners (married, cohabiting, civil partnership or otherwise) or ex-partners. The abuse may be committed in the home or elsewhere including online”

This definition is included in the Joint Protocol between Police Scotland and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS), “*In partnership challenging domestic abuse*” which is a public document that can be found at the Police Scotland website on <https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/ymzlwjw/joint-protocol-between-police-scotland-and-copfs-in-partnership-challenging-domestic-abuse.pdf?view=Standard> or on the COPFS website on <http://www.copfs.gov.uk/>.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

Does your organisation have specifically trained domestic abuse officers?

If so how does this training differ from standard training?

How many domestic abuse officers are there?

In response to the three questions above I can advise that Police Scotland are continuing to develop a workplace culture where there is no tolerance for domestic abuse and which recognises that the responsibility for domestic abuse lies solely with the perpetrator.

At an operational level, Police Scotland utilises a 'three tiered approach' to the policing of domestic abuse: local operational policing, divisional specialist domestic abuse investigation officers and the national Domestic Abuse Task Force. This established 'three tiered approach' ensures domestic abuse victims across Scotland receive a police response tailored to the particular circumstances of their case.

Effective delivery of the 3 Tiered approach is supported by a cadre of bespoke and embedded domestic abuse training to ensure domestic abuse victims across Scotland receive a police response tailored to the particular circumstances of their case. This includes but is not limited to Probationer Training, Operation Command Training for newly promoted sergeants and training for Specialist Domestic Abuse Investigators.

The Domestic Abuse Matters (Scotland) (DAMS) is a training programme which commenced in December 2018, designed to support all police officers and staff in the roll out of the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018. More than 14,000 of our officers and staff have now been trained to recognise that domestic abuse isn't always violent or physical. It is often psychological and disempowering, isolating victims and removing them from the support of family and friends, which can have the most devastating impact.

Additionally Police Scotland's network of over 700 Domestic Abuse Champions embed the learning from the Domestic Abuse Matters Core Training programme to sustain organisational change as well as supporting and offering guidance to ensure that their colleagues uphold the key principles of the Domestic Abuse Matters Core Training programme

Police Scotland deliver a Domestic Abuse Investigation Course to specialist officers (Tier 2 and Tier 3 level as defined below). This is a comprehensive course aimed at officers who have specifically undertaken the role of a domestic abuse investigator. The aim is to enhance officers' professional knowledge of key areas surrounding domestic abuse investigations and to further their development of appropriate investigative strategies. Officers within specialist domestic abuse units have further specialist training such as for interviewing children (Joint Investigative Interview trained) or investigating sexual offences (Sexual Offences Liaison Officers).

It is worthy of note that Police Scotland currently have 16,805 Police Officers all of whom have undertaken training in tackling Domestic Abuse.

How can the public access these officers, is it automatic if there is a domestic abuse element? If not kindly explain how the public can navigate this service.

At an operational level, Police Scotland's 3 tiered response to Domestic Abuse provides a structure to uniform, local and national specialists/resources.

OFFICIAL

Members of the public can contact police Scotland via the various methods of contact i.e. by calling 999 (emergencies), 101 (non-emergencies), online or in person. Please refer to the Police Scotland website for full details in relation to contacting police.

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/contact-us/>

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management quoting the reference number given.

Please note that as you have already requested a review in relation to this request, any further dissatisfaction with the response should be escalated to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner for a decision. We cannot conduct a second review.

You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Applications must be submitted within 6 months of our response to your review request.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.