| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0729  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.

**I recently requested, and received, figures for the number of people who died in police custody. I am now looking for the same information for the number of deaths following police contact and reported to PIRC.**

**I am looking for the numbers broken down on an annual basis from Jan-Dec 2014-2022. Please provide this information in a spreadsheet.**

**This should cover the following points:**

**1. How many people have died in total following contact with Police Scotland? Please provide figures on an annual basis and broken down by each of the 13 Police Scotland divisions.**

**2. Please provide ages and genders for all of those who have died in these circumstances.**

Having considered your request in terms of the Act, it may provide useful additional context for you to consider the Police Scotland [Death or Serious Injury in Police Custody National Guidance](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/hpsdce3p/death-or-serious-injury-in-police-custody-national-guidance.doc).

Please also note that Police Scotland publish information relating to deaths and serious injuries in police custody or following police contact in our reporting to the Scottish Police Authority Complaints and Conduct Committee – further information can be found [here](https://www.spa.police.uk/meetings/complaints-and-conduct-committee/).

Data has been provided detailing the number of individuals attached to referrals to the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner (PIRC) who have died following Police contact, broken down by year referred.

Please note, for each of the tables listed below, that a single referral may involve multiple deceased individuals, therefore the number of individuals may vary from the number of referrals (this is particularly relevant if you seek to compare referral figures published online as these figures may differ).

Furthermore, data has been provided based on the date of referral and this may vary from the date of the related incident.

Please note that data is not held prior to 01/04/2014 and section 17 of the Act (information not held) therefore applies in respect of that data.

*Table: Deaths of Individuals Following Police Contact referred to PIRC, by Division & year referred* 1 2

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Division** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** |
| North East | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| Tayside | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 7 |
| Highlands and Islands | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Forth Valley | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Edinburgh | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Lothians & Scottish Borders | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Fife | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| Greater Glasgow | 2 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 4 |
| Renfrewshire & Inverclyde | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Lanarkshire | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 3 | 3 |
| Argyll & West Dunbartonshire | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Ayrshire | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Dumfries and Galloway | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| **Grand Total** | **12** | **12** | **18** | **14** | **19** | **8** | **28** | **21** | **27** |

*Table: Deaths of Individuals Following Police Contact referred to PIRC, by sex & year referred* 1 2

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sex** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** |
| Female | 3 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 10 | 5 | 4 |
| Male | 9 | 8 | 15 | 12 | 17 | 4 | 18 | 16 | 23 |
| **Grand Total** | **12** | **12** | **18** | **14** | **19** | **8** | **28** | **21** | **27** |

*Table: Deaths of Individuals Following Police Contact referred to PIRC, by age group & year referred* 1 2

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Age Group** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** |
| Under 21 years | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| 21-30 years | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 4 |
| 31-40 years | 3 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 11 | 3 | 8 |
| 41-50 years | 2 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 4 |
| Over 50 years | 4 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 10 |
| Unknown | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| **Grand Total** | **12** | **12** | **18** | **14** | **19** | **8** | **28** | **21** | **27** |

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.