| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1473  Responded to: 21 June 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our 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”

Please note that the definition of Domestic abuse in Scotland differs from the definition of Domestic Violence in England and Wales which includes wider familial abuse e.g. from parents or children etc.

**For Q2 domestic homicide abuse victims prior contact with the police, if I asked for this for the years from 2020 to date would this be doable?**

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

I appreciate that you have narrowed the dates from the initial request for FOI 23-3256, however, as this information is not centrally recorded, all Sudden Death records would have to be manually assessed to determine if contact had occurred. As such, this is an exercise which would exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations

**Can you please provide figures of female domestic homicide victims for 2023 and 2024. I understand this will be.**

As per our response to FOI 23-3256, we must advise the following: Police Scotland categorises domestic homicides as any homicide or culpable homicide resulting from intimate partner violence. A partner is defined by the COPFS / Police Scotland Joint Protocol as a spouse or civil partner, those living together as spouses or those in intimate personal relationship, current or ex.

To ensure the utmost respect and privacy and to protect the identities of the individuals involved, we are unable to provide specific details. By way of explanation as noted above, Scotland has a very specific definition of domestic abuse which relates to partners and ex-partners only, and as such the number of domestic homicides is smaller than that of overall homicide and by providing the information asked for poses a risk of identifying individuals involved.

To be of assistance, we can confirm the number of domestic homicides recorded by Police Scotland in 2023-2024 with a female victim was 6.

Please note, data provided in both this response and FOI 23-3256, refers to the financial year, 1st April – 31st March.

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.