| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-0871  Responded to: 21 May 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Please provide the following information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act of 2002 respectively:**

**A full statistical count of all arrests of any Catholic, Christian, or any other person for silently praying or thinking against abortion or otherwise exercising their absolute UN Article 18 Human right under the International Declaration of Human Rights at any abortion clinic or area deemed a ''Protected zone'' in Scotland between 10/3/2020 - 10/3/2025 please do not disclose the details of the arrested, but please disclose the details of the arresting officers involved in arresting and persecuting these individuals for having a thought contrary to Scottish Government anti-life policy.**

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to provide data from March 2020 to August 2024.

I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

By way of explanation, prior to September 2024, there was no specific offence and no means of searching Crime Reports based on locus as a provider of abortion services.

It should be noted that criminal behaviour could be recorded under a number of crime classifications.

As such, this is an exercise which would exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

We can, however, provide data from September 2024, detailed in the table below.

Please note caveats below the table:

*Detected crimes - contravention of Abortion Services (Safe Access Zone) – 01/09/2024 – 13/05/2025*

| **Month** | **Number** |
| --- | --- |
| September 2024 | 0 |
| October 2024 | 0 |
| November 2024 | 0 |
| December 2024 | 0 |
| January 2025 | 0 |
| February 2025 | 1 |
| March 2025 | 0 |
| April 2025 | 0 |
| May 2025 | 0 |

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information.   
Data was extracted from Police Scotland systems and are correct as at 13 May 2025.  
Extracted by date raised and restricting for Charge Stats code 604716.

In relation to the arresting officers, I am refusing to provide their details in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the following exemptions apply:

*Section 34(1)(b) - Investigations*Information is exempt where it is held for the purpose of an investigation, which may lead to a report being submitted to COPFS.

*Section 38(1)(b) - Personal Data*Personal data is defined in Article 4 of GDPR as: *‘Information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person […] who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person’*Personal data is exempt from disclosure where disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles set out at Article 5(1) of the GDPR.  
Article 6 of the GDPR goes on to state that processing shall be lawful only if certain conditions are met.  
The only potentially applicable condition is set out at Article 6(1)(f) which states:

*‘Processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by the controller or by a third party, except where such interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject which require protection of personal data.*Whilst I accept that you may have a legitimate interest with regards the disclosure of the report, I am nonetheless of the view that those interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject(s). On that basis, it is my view that disclosure of the information sought would be unlawful.

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.