| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1815  Responded to: 19 September 2024 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Can you tell me how many sudden death reports there have been from 2015-2024 separated by month and year?

First of all, in relation to 2015, the information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act applies.

For the period 2016 to 2023, unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process this part of your request. 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, in the absence of a national recording system, this information is held by each Divisional area of Police Scotland. However, recording practices, legacy systems and system capabilities varies across these Divisions and so the only way to obtain accurate monthly figures for some areas, for the period 2016 to 2023, would be for each death report to be manually checked, an exercise which would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600.

With the rollout of national crime and case recording systems in 2024, we can provide figures for January to August 2024. The figures in the table below represent the number of death reports sent to the Procurator Fiscal, broken down by month for the period January to August 2024.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **2024**  **Month** | **No. of death reports sent to Procurator Fiscal** |
| Jan | 859 |
| Feb | 724 |
| Mar | 826 |
| Apr | 745 |
| May | 820 |
| Jun | 656 |
| Jul | 763 |
| Aug | 653 |

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.

A Division

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024 to date** |  |
| January | 58 | 61 | 36 | 46 | 48 | 44 | 125 | 65 | 62 | 87 |  |
| February | 43 | 37 | 41 | 46 | 30 | 43 | 55 | 38 | 47 | 81 |  |
| March | 46 | 44 | 38 | 41 | 46 | 32 | 49 | 51 | 64 | 67 |  |
| April | 56 | 34 | 44 | 27 | 31 | 111 | 42 | 53 | 49 | 62 |  |
| May | 49 | 35 | 22 | 34 | 33 | 77 | 46 | 49 | 62 | 75 |  |
| June | 62 | 43 | 33 | 33 | 27 | 58 | 47 | 38 | 48 | 52 |  |
| July | 41 | 47 | 37 | 38 | 30 | 37 | 50 | 42 | 51 | 64 |  |
| August | 42 | 38 | 26 | 34 | 26 | 52 | 51 | 56 | 61 | 53 |  |
| September | 60 | 34 | 39 | 34 | 42 | 45 | 42 | 45 | 65 | 13 |  |
| October | 57 | 41 | 44 | 30 | 35 | 40 | 44 | 60 | 64 |  |  |
| November | 51 | 33 | 28 | 33 | 36 | 42 | 50 | 53 | 59 |  |  |
| December | 58 | 33 | 43 | 42 | 40 | 103 | 46 | 57 | 65 |  |  |

G Division

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024 to date** |  |
| January | 138 | 144 | 127 | 136 | 127 | 132 | 207 | 169 | 151 | 148 |  |
| February | 135 | 118 | 121 | 113 | 119 | 110 | 167 | 131 | 102 | 109 |  |
| March | 106 | 93 | 110 | 106 | 126 | 138 | 163 | 141 | 141 | 119 |  |
| April | 111 | 112 | 141 | 105 | 106 | 161 | 156 | 134 | 124 | 98 |  |
| May | 128 | 118 | 125 | 102 | 122 | 160 | 142 | 155 | 161 | 128 |  |
| June | 111 | 101 | 123 | 108 | 107 | 160 | 153 | 134 | 132 | 111 |  |
| July | 104 | 100 | 94 | 87 | 106 | 135 | 150 | 135 | 133 | 103 |  |
| August | 115 | 121 | 98 | 102 | 114 | 126 | 145 | 137 | 119 |  |  |
| September | 111 | 72 | 279 | 113 | 114 | 129 | 154 | 117 | 81 |  |  |
| October | 129 | 93 | 101 | 97 | 124 | 158 | 154 | 138 | 113 |  |  |
| November | 118 | 111 | 90 | 102 | 112 | 157 | 158 | 134 | 123 |  |  |
| December | 121 | 111 | 121 | 227 | 137 | 173 | 192 | 166 | 110 |  |  |

U Division

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024 to date** |  |
| January | 58 | 61 | 35 | 56 | 50 | 45 | 87 | 82 | 72 | 51 |  |
| February | 61 | 55 | 27 | 41 | 43 | 50 | 78 | 65 | 53 | 51 |  |
| March | 51 | 40 | 41 | 47 | 35 | 47 | 66 | 82 | 53 | 43 |  |
| April | 47 | 33 | 39 | 31 | 46 | 52 | 71 | 75 | 48 | 52 |  |
| May | 55 | 38 | 54 | 39 | 49 | 58 | 59 | 72 | 40 | 55 |  |
| June | 56 | 35 | 40 | 38 | 38 | 47 | 50 | 56 | 59 | 58 |  |
| July | 36 | 47 | 38 | 44 | 46 | 50 | 67 | 59 | 36 |  |  |
| August | 50 | 44 | 40 | 46 | 47 | 42 | 66 | 67 | 53 |  |  |
| September | 45 | 44 | 47 | 36 | 44 | 65 | 49 | 45 | 47 |  |  |
| October | 43 | 35 | 51 | 32 | 55 | 65 | 98 | 48 | 55 |  |  |
| November | 49 | 54 | 47 | 34 | 41 | 65 | 65 | 50 | 42 |  |  |
| December | 56 | 47 | 35 | 51 | 52 | 86 | 82 | 55 | 52 |  |  |

K Division

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024 to date** |  |
| January | 63 | 42 | 42 | 41 | 49 | 42 | 60 | 70 | 56 | 72 |  |
| February | 36 | 42 | 35 | 22 | 26 | 40 | 39 | 35 | 40 | 50 |  |
| March | 55 | 26 | 34 | 41 | 33 | 46 | 44 | 53 | 48 | 56 |  |
| April | 39 | 29 | 41 | 34 | 37 | 51 | 39 | 60 | 51 | 33 |  |
| May | 31 | 28 | 39 | 30 | 33 | 47 | 51 | 46 | 52 | 42 |  |
| June | 54 | 39 | 31 | 33 | 33 | 42 | 37 | 50 | 41 | 38 |  |
| July | 46 | 26 | 43 | 35 | 45 | 33 | 45 | 46 | 34 | 42 |  |
| August | 41 | 30 | 33 | 33 | 32 | 38 | 40 | 41 | 36 |  |  |
| September | 39 | 32 | 27 | 28 | 43 | 37 | 47 | 47 | 31 |  |  |
| October | 44 | 31 | 29 | 27 | 28 | 41 | 43 | 40 | 54 |  |  |
| November | 51 | 40 | 29 | 38 | 32 | 52 | 55 | 46 | 41 |  |  |
| December | 62 | 38 | 47 | 48 | 48 | 51 | 47 | 53 | 42 |  |  |

Q Division

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024 to date** |  |
| January |  |  | 90 | 104 | 89 | 98 | 143 | 123 | 159 | 151 |  |
| February |  |  | 78 | 75 | 76 | 81 | 141 | 103 | 115 | 126 |  |
| March |  |  | 78 | 75 | 80 | 134 | 124 | 115 | 140 | 134 |  |
| April |  |  | 67 | 88 | 83 | 134 | 123 | 109 | 140 | 134 |  |
| May |  |  | 66 | 77 | 82 | 139 | 113 | 101 | 103 | 139 |  |
| June |  |  | 63 | 68 | 76 | 102 | 111 | 119 | 120 | 102 |  |
| July |  |  | 79 | 81 | 80 | 102 | 111 | 122 | 94 | 102 |  |
| August |  |  | 76 | 80 | 83 | 117 | 107 | 93 | 105 |  |  |
| September |  |  | 78 | 71 | 86 | 100 | 113 | 104 | 129 |  |  |
| October |  |  | 96 | 77 | 86 | 117 | 123 | 136 | 133 |  |  |
| November |  |  | 88 | 51 | 67 | 104 | 139 | 135 | 114 |  |  |
| December |  |  | 88 | 79 | 78 | 146 | 139 | 188 | 135 |  |  |

L Division

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024 to date** |  |
| January | 22 | 24 | 29 | 32 | 46 | 41 | 52 | 29 | 38 | 36 |  |
| February | 32 | 25 | 31 | 23 | 36 | 31 | 30 | 32 | 36 | 24 |  |
| March | 33 | 34 | 20 | 23 | 26 | 47 | 36 | 50 | 44 | 23 |  |
| April | 24 | 16 | 31 | 24 | 36 | 63 | 30 | 37 | 36 | 31 |  |
| May | 25 | 20 | 23 | 15 | 23 | 40 | 33 | 35 | 34 | 25 |  |
| June | 27 | 19 | 14 | 14 | 35 | 25 | 33 | 38 | 30 | 16 |  |
| July | 29 | 16 | 24 | 30 | 27 | 37 | 34 | 39 | 38 | 25 |  |
| August | 29 | 18 | 19 | 40 | 31 | 39 | 37 | 30 | 23 |  |  |
| September | 29 | 22 | 14 | 46 | 27 | 29 | 35 | 31 | 36 |  |  |
| October | 17 | 18 | 26 | 37 | 46 | 24 | 19 | 27 | 4 |  |  |
| November | 32 | 21 | 19 | 31 | 35 | 31 | 29 | 33 | 18 |  |  |
| December | 20 | 20 | 24 | 35 | 44 | 40 | 12 | 56 | 28 |  |  |

N Division

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024 to date** |  |
| January | 33 | 52 | 44 | 42 | 39 | 42 | 50 | 64 | 63 | 57 |  |
| February | 33 | 31 | 37 | 42 | 43 | 45 | 41 | 37 | 39 | 50 |  |
| March | 27 | 25 | 36 | 36 | 40 | 46 | 36 | 62 | 45 | 51 |  |
| April | 22 | 18 | 51 | 44 | 23 | 32 | 46 | 44 | 41 | 57 |  |
| May | 35 | 18 | 42 | 33 | 28 | 37 | 38 | 55 | 49 | 68 |  |
| June | 41 | 23 | 46 | 43 | 38 | 33 | 46 | 58 | 49 | 46 |  |
| July | 26 | 24 | 32 | 48 | 45 | 41 | 55 | 54 | 60 | 49 |  |
| August | 33 | 47 | 38 | 37 | 35 | 41 | 46 | 53 | 51 | 50 | To 29/8/21 |
| September | 30 | 45 | 31 | 35 | 41 | 33 | 49 | 51 | 41 |  |  |
| October | 31 | 25 | 40 | 32 | 33 | 38 | 52 | 55 | 51 |  |  |
| November | 30 | 33 | 29 | 48 | 41 | 54 | 39 | 70 | 48 |  |  |
| December | 34 | 29 | 61 | 41 | 33 | 48 | 52 | 68 | 57 |  |  |