| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2456  Responded to: 16 October 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

Protecting the public is a top priority for Police Scotland. In Scotland Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), provides a comprehensive response to a complex issue, using professional assessment and management to properly target resources at those who pose a risk to the public.

Police Scotland works in partnership with a number of agencies through MAPPA to ensure that all Registered Sex Offenders are robustly managed within the community.

While we can never eliminate risk entirely, we want to reassure communities that all reasonable steps are being taken to protect them.

**The total number of registered sex offenders in your jurisdiction who have legally changed their name by deed poll in the last three years (from 2020 to 2023). Please provide an annual breakdown if possible.  
The gender breakdown (male, female, other) of registered sex offenders who have changed their name by deed poll in the specified period.**

An individual who has received a conviction or finding in respect of a specified offence under Schedule 3 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 is automatically subject to the Notification Requirements of part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

Following conviction the individual, referred to as a Registered Sex Offender (RSO) must attend a Prescribed Police Station within 3 days of either conviction for the offence which placed them on “the register” or of being released from custody following this conviction and provide notifiable information which includes -

Name (name on date of conviction, notification, and any other names used).

There are no restrictions on an RSO from changing their notifiable information, including name, however the RSO must attend a Prescribed Police Station to inform Police of any changes within 72 hours of the occurrence.

There is no requirement for a RSO to produce a certificate or advise if the name or any other name used which they are now registering has been changed by deed poll.

If their name was changed by deed poll and the RSO did provide this information there is no common functionality in the current ViSOR system to record this. Police Scotland would need to manually interrogate the ViSOR system for each individual record where name changes have been recorded to see if there is any mention of a change of name by deed poll.

As such, this is an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations. In terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

**The number of registered sex offenders who have changed their gender in the specified period.  
For the above, the number who notified of a change from male to female and female to male.**

There is no legal requirement for a RSO to advise Police of a change of gender under the current legislation mentioned above.

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.