| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-1537Responded to: 18 July 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1) The number of brothels known to your police force within the area that it operates. ('brothels' includes massage parlours and any other premises where it is known to police that sex work is undertaken)

Having considered your question, I am refusing to confirm or deny whether the information sought exists or is held by Police Scotland in terms of section 18 of the Act.

Section 18 applies where the following two conditions are met:

- It would be contrary to the public interest to reveal whether the information is held

- If the information was held, it would be exempt from disclosure in terms of one or more of the exemptions set out in sections 28 to 35, 38, 39(1) or 41 of the Act.

If the information was held by Police Scotland, it would be considered exempt in terms of the section listed below:

* Section 34(1) - Investigations
* Section 35(1)(a)&(b) - Law Enforcement

To disclose whether information was held would confirm whether the circumstances referred to were in some way known to Police Scotland.

If any information were held, it would be held for the purpose of an investigation and disclosure of such information would prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

This should not, however, be taken as conclusive evidence that the information you have requested exists or does not exist.

## 2) the number of reports received by your police force that relate to brothels for each individual year between 2018 and 2023 (inclusive).

In response to this question, I must advise that in line with Scottish Government reporting, Police Scotland record crime using Scottish Government Justice Directorate (SGJD) codes, this means I can provide statistics on offences by their “recorded” and “detected” status.

The table below provides then number of relevant recorded crimes. Please note the caveats at the bottom of the table.

Recorded Crimes related to Sex work, 01 January 2018 until 30 June 2023

| Crime/Offence | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Procuration (excluding homosexual acts) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Brothel keeping | 7 | 8 | 15 | 28 | 13 | 5 |
| Immoral traffic | 22 | 17 | 19 | 31 | 7 | 11 |
| Offences related to prostitution | 38 | 35 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 4 |
| Procuration – of homosexual acts | 9 | 5 | 10 | 7 | 6 | 0 |
| Total | 76 | 65 | 48 | 73 | 32 | 20 |

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as of 6th July 2023.

## 3) the number of arrests made in relation to brothels, sex work, and profiting from sex work for each individual year between 2018 and 2023 (inclusive).

In response to this question, likewise, as above, I must advise that in line with Scottish Government reporting, Police Scotland record crime using Scottish Government Justice Directorate (SGJD) codes, this means I can provide statistics on offences by their “recorded” and “detected” status.

The table below provides then number of relevant detected crimes. Please note the caveats at the bottom of the table.

Detected Crimes related to Sex work, 01 January 2018 until 30 June 2023

| **Crime/Offence** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Brothel keeping | 7 | 7 | 15 | 14 | 16 | 4 |
| Immoral traffic | 5 | 1 | 6 | 14 | 2 | 8 |
| Offences related to prostitution | 36 | 35 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 4 |
| Procuration - excluding homosexual acts | 3 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Procuration of homosexual acts | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **51** | **47** | **30** | **40** | **24** | **16** |

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as of 6th July 2023.

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 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 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.