| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-2922  Responded to: xx December 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I am looking for some details on how often Police Scotland shares information with the Home Office and under what specific circumstances this happens. I’m looking for figures covering 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and from Jan-September 2024.

## For each category in 1, 2 and 3 please provide gender, nationality (including British), the crime being investigated, and whether any were under 18:

## 1. How many times did Police Scotland share details of suspects of crime with the Home Office in line with its protocols?

A search of our recording systems has returned the following data for the periods requested:

2020 - 652

2021 - 458

2022 - 577

2023 - 555

Jan-September 2024 – 271

## 2. How many times did Police Scotland share the details of victims of crime/people reporting a crime with the Home Office?

## 3. How many times did Police Scotland share details of witnesses of crime with the Home Office?

To avoid repetition, Q2 & Q3 have been answered together

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.

By way of explanation, this information is not recorded centrally and there is no easy way to extract this detail from our recording systems.

It would simply not be achievable to manually examine every report in order to obtain details of age, gender, nationalities and crime types within the cost limitations of the Act.

## 4. I am also looking for a copy of the Police Scotland policy document or standard operation procedure which directs officers to refer to the Home Office in certain circumstances.

Our search confirms there is no single Policy, SOP or National Guidance Document which directs when Officers should refer to the Home Office. There is generic information available around information sharing available within the Information Sharing SOP ([Standard Operating Procedures G-I - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/policies-and-procedures/standard-operating-procedures/standard-operating-procedures-g-i/)) but this is not specific to the Home Office and does not provide when information should be shared. We also cannot find any reference in any of the guidance that states to contact the Home Office.

On that basis section 17 of the Act applies and I can confirm that the information sought is not held by Police Scotland.

To be of some assistance you may be interested in legislation which allows for Police Scotland to report subjects to the Home Office under:

Section 20 Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 - Powers to Supply Information for immigration purposes:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1999/33/section/20>

which is amended in accordance with subsections (2) to (10) of the following act:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2016/19/section/55/enacted>

This legislation requires us to inform the Home Office Immigration Enforcement (HOIE), the National Command and Control Unit (NCCU) who will advise the officer to arrest for Immigration purposes.

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.