| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1717  Responded to: 22 August 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Please release the following information relating to people missing in your force area in the following time periods:**

**• 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023**

**• 1 January 2024 to 31 May 2024**

1. **How many individual children were reported missing to your force?**
2. **How many individual adults were reported missing to your force?**

Table 1 confirms the number of individual missing person reports received by Police Scotland between 1 January 2023 and 31 May 2024. Please note the caveats below the table.

*Table 1 – Missing Person Individual Nominals Investigations – 01/01/23 – 31/05/24*

|  | **2023** | **2024** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Adult | 4,608 | 1,917 |
| Cared for adult | 475 | 258 |
| Child | 2,511 | 1,265 |
| Looked after child | 674 | 28 |
| Wanted/Absconder | 205 | 28 |
| **Total** | **8,473** | **3,918** |

*All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information.   
All data was extracted from Police Scotland systems and are correct as at 30/07/2024.   
1. The data was extracted from the Missing Person's Database and broken on label to identify missing Adults and missing Children*

*2. The data was extracted using the Date Reported Missing. All Divisions across Police Scotland started using the Missing Persons Database for recording Missing Person Investigations within April 2019.   
3. Table 1 is a count of unique missing person investigations.*

**3. How many total missing incidents were reported to your force related to children going missing?**

**4. How many total missing incidents were reported to your force related to adults going missing?**

Table 2confirms the total number of missing person incidents reported to Police Scotland between 1 January 2023 and 31 May 2024. Please note the caveats below the table.

*Table 2 – Missing Person Investigations – 01/01/23 – 31/05/24*

|  | **2023** | **2024** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Adult | 5,612 | 2,130 |
| Cared for adult | 1,014 | 405 |
| Child | 5,864 | 2,127 |
| Looked after child | 4,344 | 1,497 |
| Wanted/Absconder | 418 | 45 |
| **Total** | **17,252** | **6,204** |

*All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information.  
 All data was extracted from Police Scotland systems and are correct as at 30/07/2024.   
1. The data was extracted from the Missing Person's Database and broken on label to identify missing Adults and missing Children   
2. The data was extracted using the Date Reported Missing. All Divisions across Police Scotland started using the Missing Persons Database for recording Missing Person Investigations within April 2019.   
3. Table 1 is a count of missing person investigations, and not unique persons. The same person can appear more than once in the count of missing person investigations.*

**5. How many missing incidents resulted in a fatality? Please provide the numbers for children and adults separately**

Table 3 confirmsthe number of individuals reported missing to Police Scotland between 1 January 2023 and 31 May 2024, who were subsequently deceased when located.

*Table 3 – Missing Person Individual Nominal Investigations – Deceased – 01/01/2023 – 31/05/24*

|  | **2023** | **2024** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Adult | 121 | 46 |
| Cared for adult | 3 | 1 |
| Child | 2 | 0 |
| Wanted/Absconder | 3 | 0 |
| **Total** | **129** | **47** |

*All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information.   
All data was extracted from Police Scotland systems and are correct as at 30/07/2024.   
1. The data was extracted from the Missing Person's Database, selected on Deceased and broken on label to identify missing Adults and missing Children   
2. The data was extracted using the Date Reported Missing. All Divisions across Police Scotland started using the Missing Persons Database for recording Missing Person Investigations within April 2019.*

**6. Please could you share the causes of death in those fatal cases**

The information sought is held by Police Scotland, but I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the following exemptions apply:

Section 39(1) - Health and Safety

Information is exempt information if its disclosure would or would be likely to endanger the physical or mental health or safety of an individual.

Disclosure may contain information that members of the public could find upsetting. It may also cause alarm and stress.

One of the main purposes of the Police Service is to protect individuals and members of the public, to disclose the requested information would be contrary to that purpose.

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.