| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-2920  Responded to: 27 November 2024 |
| --- | --- |

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

**I’m looking for figures on the number of children (under 18) who have been reported to Police Scotland as missing from local authority area care**

**These figures should include all children in care including in residential care homes, residential schools, foster care, or in kinship or looked-after at home care as well as asylum accommodation where a young person is under-18.**

1. **I am looking for monthly figures from Jan-Dec 2023 and for 1 January until 30 September 2024.**
2. **I am looking for these figures to be broken down by age, gender and local authority from which the child or young person was reported missing.**
3. **Please indicate how long the child was missing for (total time in hours/ days/ weeks etc) in each case.**
4. **How many of these children were in the asylum system?**

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, between 1st January 2023 and 30th September 2024 there are over 7,000 missing person records.

In order to accurately answer your questions, each record would have to be manually reviewed, an exercise which would exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

We can however provide the table below which details Missing Person cases of children in care by the age of the individual when reported missing:

| **Age** | **Total** |
| --- | --- |
| 3 | 1 |
| 5 | 1 |
| 6 | 2 |
| 7 | 6 |
| 8 | 6 |
| 9 | 10 |
| 10 | 25 |
| 11 | 32 |
| 12 | 308 |
| 13 | 1,153 |
| 14 | 1,624 |
| 15 | 2,129 |
| 16 | 1,377 |
| 17 | 571 |
| 18 | 40 |

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.