| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1767  Responded to: 12 August 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

Tackling domestic abuse is a priority for Police Scotland and we are committed to working with our partners to reduce the harm it causes and ultimately eradicate it.

Domestic abuse is a despicable and debilitating crime which affects all of our communities and has no respect for ability, age, ethnicity, gender, race, religion or sexual orientation.

Police Scotland will not tolerate it.

Police Scotland will proactively target perpetrators and support victims to prevent domestic abuse from damaging the lives of victims and their families.

Police Scotland defines domestic abuse as:

“Any form of physical, verbal, sexual, psychological or financial abuse which might amount to criminal conduct, and which takes place within the context of a relationship. The relationship will be between partners (married, cohabiting, civil partnership or otherwise) or ex-partners. The abuse may be committed in the home or elsewhere including online”.

Please note that the definition of Domestic Abuse in Scotland differs from the definition of Domestic Violence in England and Wales which includes wider familial abuse e.g. from parents or children etc.

**Can you please tell me how many men from the Syrian community have reported cases of domestic abuse to the Police between:**

**31st March 2020 – 1st April 2021**

**1nd April 2021 – 31st March 2022**

**1nd April 2022 – 31st March 2023**

**1nd April 2023 – 1st June 2024**

**I know there is a sizable Syrian community in Clackmannanshire, Scotland.**

The interim Vulnerable Persons Database (iVPD) is the formal means by which Police Scotland record police contact with adults, children and young people who are, or are perceived to be, experiencing some form of adversity and / or situational vulnerability, which may impact on their current or future wellbeing; or where force policy dictates e.g. domestic abuse, hate crime, youth offending or to record details of victim’s rights under Section 8 and 9 of the Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2014.

The iVPD database does not specifically record individuals’ nationality.

Unfortunately, therefore, 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) - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

A manual interrogation of every domestic abuse concern report with a male victim would be required in order to attempt to identify members of the Syrian community.

Even if such an interrogation was feasible, the results would not be accurate, as they would depend on whether individuals voluntarily provided information about their belonging to the Syrian community.

Moreover, between 2014 and 2024, 20,319 Syrians were resettled in the UK. According to the Home Office, Scotland received approximately 16% of the 20,319, (3,251). Given that this number represents a small portion of Scotland’s overall population, disclosing specific data about individuals could potentially risk their privacy and safety.

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.