| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-0666  Responded to: 6th June 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

1) How many officers from 01/01/24 to present date are absent from duty as a result of reported mental health issues?

**3) How many male officers are currently absent from work through mental health issues from 01/01/24 to present date?  
4) How many female officers are absent from work through mental health issues from 01/01/24 to present date?**

Please note that Police Scotland only collate personnel reports quarterly.

As such, data for May and June 2024 is not yet available section 17 of the Act therefore applies as the information sought is not currently held by Police Scotland.

From 1st January to the 30th of April 2024, 734 officers were absent due to psychological disorders - 322 female officers and 412 male officers.

2) What training do operational officers receive to identify and effectively deal with members of the public being affected by mental health issues?

Student officers undertaking Initial Training receive an input named ‘Mental Health and Suicide Intervention’.

This comprises a total of 135 minutes delivered via 3 sessions each lasting 45 minutes.

On successful completion of the training, student officers will be able to;

* Identify the signs and symptoms that may indicate a person may be in mental distress or at risk of suicide.
* Identify appropriate actions when dealing with persons who are suffering mental health disorder or are at risk of suicide.
* State the procedures to adopt if a person with an apparent mental health illness has committed a crime or offence.
* Explain your powers and responsibilities when dealing with someone in apparent mental health crisis in public and private places.
* Explain the procedure following no admission to hospital and the recording of information.

This lesson can also be supplemented by Skill Development Exercises where students will be involved/observe an immersive learning situation where they are expected to apply the learning from the classroom environment.

5) What is the frequency and method of training provided to officers for tackling domestic abuse in Scotland?  
Student officers undertaking Initial Training receive several inputs on Domestic Abuse.  These inputs are delivered once to every new course and take place in classrooms, with content and any associated activities facilitated by a class instructor.  This comprises a total of 315 minutes delivered in 7 sessions each lasting 45 minutes. These lessons can also be supplemented by Skill Development Exercises where students will be involved/observe an immersive learning situation where they are expected to apply the learning from the classroom environment.

## 6) what is the frequency and method of providing training to operational police officers for effectively dealing with mental health issues relating to calls from members of the public.

In relation to the training provided to student officers undertaking Initial Training regarding Mental Health and Suicide Intervention, these inputs are delivered once to every new course and take place in classrooms, with content and any associated activities facilitated by a class instructor.

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.