| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1267  Responded to: xx May 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## How many homicides since 1960 to present are ‘unresolved’ – meaning the force believes they know who committed the crimes but no convictions have been achieved.

## How many homicides since 1960 to present are ‘unsolved’ – meaning the identity of the perpetrators is unknown.

I would first ask that you note Police Scotland does not use the term “unsolved” and instead uses the term “undetected”.

Undetected homicides are unresolved and as such the **undetected numbers** **are also included in the unresolved total.**

For clarification purposes please read the following information relating to unresolved and undetected homicides:

Unresolved Homicides:

Unresolved homicides are considered those where:

(a) No suspect has been identified

(b) A suspect has been identified but not charged (no proceedings)

(c) A suspect has been identified and charged but not placed on petition (no proceedings)

(d) A suspect has appeared on petition but no indictment served due to there being considered an insufficiency of evidence at that time (no proceedings)

(e) A suspect has been indicted and a trial concluded which has resulted in an acquittal (Not Guilty/Not Proven)

(f) A suspect has been convicted but acquitted on appeal and no fresh prosecution has been authorised by the Appeal Court (Not Guilty)

(g) A suspect has committed suicide prior to trial and no other person is being sought in connection with the case.

(h) A suspect has been charged then reported and is currently awaiting trial.

Undetected Homicides:

Undetected Homicides are those cases where no person has been **formally identified as an accused** or **charged** with the offence.

On that basis, there are 1289 ‘unresolved’ homicides recorded in line with the criteria detailed above, of which 62 are recorded as ‘undetected’.

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.