| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2785  Responded to: 20th November 2023 |
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Protecting the public is a top priority for Police Scotland. In Scotland Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), provides a comprehensive response to a complex issue, using professional assessment and management to properly target resources at those who pose a risk to the public.

Police Scotland works in partnership with a number of agencies through MAPPA to ensure that all Registered Sex Offenders (RSO) are robustly managed within the community.

While we can never eliminate risk entirely, we want to reassure communities that all reasonable steps are being taken to protect them.

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

## Freedom of Information of Male & Female sex offenders registration for Fife, Scotland.

An individual who has received a conviction or finding in respect of a specified offence under Schedule 3 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 is automatically subject to the Notification Requirements of Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

Following conviction, the individual, referred to as a RSO must attend a Prescribed Police Station within 3 days of either conviction for the offence which placed them on “the register” or of being released from custody following this conviction and provide notifiable information. In addition, the individual is required to attend a Prescribed Police Station should any of this notifiable information change. There is also a requirement for a periodic (annual) notification by the individual. All the relevant requirements are set out in the aforementioned legislation.

The individuals’ sex or gender are not notifiable information as set out in the legislation and as such, an RSO does not need to provide Police Scotland with confirmation of their gender or sex.

Whilst Police Scotland does record whether an RSO is a male or female on our system and there is a section for recording the gender, it is not always completed and as such, it is not possible to conduct a search which would automatically retrieve a breakdown by gender.

The only way to provide you with an accurate response would be to individually examine the records for each RSO within Fife to establish whether they have disclosed their gender.

As at the 2nd of November 2023 there were 684 Registered Sex Offenders (RSOs) recorded in the Fife Division of Police Scotland, each of which we would have to individually asses to determine their gender. Of these 684, I can however confirm that 7 are recorded as female.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

Please note that statistics on the number of RSOs within Scotland, broken down by division and by postcode area are publicly available on our website via the below link:-

[Registered Sex Offender (RSO) Numbers - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/specialist-crime-division/sex-offender-policing-units/registered-sex-offender-rso-information/)

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.