| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1950  Responded to: 06 September 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**How many false rape allegations have been recorded in tayside division since 2022?  
The four crime types will be "wasting police time" "attempting to pervert the course of justice" "falsely naming accused person" "false declarations"  
If you could conduct a search of these four crimes and use free search for the term rape**

The table below details all recorded crimes in Tayside Division in terms of the four listed crime classifications, by calendar year. Please note the caveats below the table.

*Selected recorded crimes in Tayside Division - 1 January 2022 to 31 August 2024*

| **SGJD crime classification** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Public mischief – including wasting police time | 20 | 19 | 17 |
| Falsely accusing named person of crime | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| General attempts to defeat/ pervert the course/ ends of justice | 119 | 140 | 113 |
| False declarations | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| **Total** | **142** | **164** | **134** |

*All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information.   
Data was extracted from Police Scotland systems and are correct as at 04/09/2024.  
The recorded crimes were extracted using the Date Raised and then selecting the Stats Class Codes 503803, 503804, 503817 & 607602.*

We are unable to carry out a key word search of the fully body of crime reports but we can search the Modus Operandi or ‘MO’ field for the presence of a word.

We have therefore progressed your request on that basis which I trust is of assistance.

On that basis, I can advise that two crime reports of the 440 listed above mentioned ‘rape’ in the MO field.

These two crime reports were connected and relate to an individual *threatening* to report a false rape allegation.

No false rape allegation was actually made.

Notwithstanding the above, I must stress that Police Scotland do not consider keyword searches for specific words/ phrases to be an accurate means of analysis.

There may be crimes of relevance to your request which do not include the specific word that you have listed.

It would however be nigh on impossible to come up with a list of comprehensive search terms - hence why we would not recommend the approach.

Additionally, spelling errors can skew the results of any analysis based on the presence of keywords.

Finally, although a phrase appears in the MO of a crime report, it cannot be assumed on that basis that the crime was directly related to the subject matter as per the context of your request.

For the reasons above, we would therefore take the view that the data provided does not accurately reflect the prevalence of false rape allegations.

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.