| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0717  Responded to: 28th March 2023 |
| --- | --- |

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

## How many reports of sexual assault were made between:

## January 2022 - January 2023

## January 2021 - January 2022

## January 2020 - January 2021

## January 2019 - January 2020

Please be advised that statistics regarding sexual offences are publicly available.

As such, in terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought. Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

(a) states that it holds the information,

(b) states that it is claiming an exemption,

(c) specifies the exemption in question and

(d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at Section 25(1) of the Act - information otherwise accessible:

*“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under Section 1(1) is exempt information”*

The information you are seeking is available on the Police Scotland website, broken down by Council Area, via the following link:

[How we are performing - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/)

## Of these reports how many were closed without an outcome between:

## January 2022 - January 2023

## January 2021 - January 2022

## January 2020 - January 2021

## January 2019 - January 2020

## How many cases of sexual assault were closed within a week of them being reported between:

## January 2022 - January 2023

## January 2021 - January 2022

## January 2020 - January 2021

## January 2019 - January 2020

## How many cases of sexual assault were closed within a month of them being reported between:

## January 2022 - January 2023

## January 2021 - January 2022

## January 2020 - January 2021

## January 2019 - January 2020

## Please can I have a breakdown of reasons why cases were closed.

## Please can I have a breakdown of the name of the city where the reports of sexual assault happened, i.e Birmingham.

In response to these questions, I must advise you that we do not mark cases as ‘open/closed’ in Scotland, nor do we use the Home Office Outcome Classifications.

As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

In Scotland, crimes are recorded as ‘Recorded/ Detected’ and these statistics are available via the link provided above.

## Please can I have a breakdown of the gender of the victim.

In response to this question, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

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.

By way of explanation, the crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no facility whereby the gender of a victim can be easily extracted.

Case by case assessment of all sexual offences would have to be carried out to establish details of the victim.

As illustrated by the published statistics, this would involve individually examining a vast number of reports - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

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.