| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-2699  Responded to: 15 November 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I am writing to you under the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 to request information regarding disability hate crimes recorded by Police Scotland. Specifically, I am interested in obtaining data related to the number of police recorded disability hate crimes in Scotland from the inception of Police Scotland on 1st April 2013 to the most recent available data for the year 2023/24, and figures up to 30/9/2024**

**In order to facilitate a comprehensive understanding of the trends over time, I kindly request that the information be presented in a clear and easy-to-understand format. Specifically, I would like the data to be organised by the year of recording, along with the corresponding number of recorded disability hate crimes for each respective year.**

**Can you also please supply recorded hate crime with a disability hate aggravator, broken down into the relevant Police Scotland Crime Bulletin Category?**

With regards to information dating from April 2013 until April 2014, 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 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 requested.

By way of explanation, interim Vulnerable Persons Database (iVPD) was created as a national system in April 2014. Prior to these each legacy police force used its own method to record vulnerable person data. To research, assess and extract the data required from 8 separate historical systems would greatly exceed the cost threshold set out within the Act.

Police Scotland have assessed that the £600 cost limit within the Act equates to 40 hours of work and so this part of your request would breach the cost threshold.

For information dated from 01 April 2014 until 31st March 2024 please refer to table 1.

The Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland Act 2021) commenced on 1st April 2024 and these crimes are now recorded on the National Crime Unifi Database. Data from 1st April 2024 is provided in Table 2.

Please note, due to the different sources of data being used, any comparison of the two datasets should be carried out with caution.

Please also note the caveats below the tables.

*Table 1 - Recorded Hate Crimes with a disability aggravator for police Scotland broken by crime bulletin – 01 April 2014 until 31st March 2024*

Please note caveats below the tables

| **Crime Bulletin Description** | **2014/15** | **2015/16** | **2016/17** | **2017/18** | **2018/19** | **2019/20** | **2020/21** | **2021/22** | **2022/23** | **2023/24** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Attempted murder | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Bail offences (other than absconding) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Breach of the Peace | 3 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Causing to view sexual activity or images | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| Common Assault | 43 | 29 | 26 | 41 | 36 | 25 | 37 | 45 | 43 | 23 |
| Common Assault (of an emergency worker) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 1 |
| Common theft | 4 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 4 |
| Communicating indecently | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Community and public order offences | 18 | 27 | 16 | 35 | 43 | 36 | 65 | 60 | 75 | 47 |
| Culpable & reckless conduct (not firearms) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Domestic Abuse (of female) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| Domestic Abuse (of male) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Driving Carelessly | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Environmental offences | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fraud | 1 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| Hate aggravated conduct (int. stirring up hatred | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 16 | 3 |
| Licensing offences | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Offences involved animals (not wildlife) | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Opening Lockfast Places – Motor Vehicle | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Opening Lockfast Places – NOT Motor Vehicle | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Other crimes against public justice | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 1 |
| Other group 1 crimes | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Other group 2 crimes | 4 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 10 |
| Other group 3 crimes | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other group 4 crimes | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other misc, offences | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other possession of offensive weapon/knife NEC (used in criminal activity) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Possession offensive weapon/knife in school (used in criminal activity) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rape | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Robbery (including assault with intent to rob) | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Serious Assault (inl. FGM, culpable & reckless conduct – causing injury) | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Sexual Assault | 3 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Stalking | 0 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Theft from a Motor Vehicle, Insecure etc | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Theft of a motor vehicle | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Threatening or abusive behaviour | 94 | 128 | 117 | 162 | 184 | 235 | 278 | 399 | 399 | 294 |
| Threats and extortion | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Vandalism (incl. reckless damage, etc) | 6 | 4 | 10 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 1 |
| Wildlife offences | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **192** | **216** | **198** | **285** | **310** | **334** | **434** | **547** | **589** | **401** |

*Table 2 - Recorded Hate Crimes with a disability aggravator for Police Scotland broken by (UNIFI) crime bulletin – 1st April until 30th September 2024*

| **Crime Bulletin Description** | **Recorded crimes** |
| --- | --- |
| Attempted rape | 1 |
| Breach of the Peace | 3 |
| Common Assault | 63 |
| Common Assault (of an emergency worker) | 3 |
| Common theft | 6 |
| Communication indecently | 4 |
| Community and public order offences | 84 |
| Consume alcohol in designated place (local bye-laws) | 1 |
| Cruel & Unnatural treatment of children | 4 |
| Domestic Abuse (of female) | 3 |
| Fraud | 13 |
| Hate aggravated conduct (inl. stirring up hatred) | 15 |
| Opening Lockfast Places - NOT Motor Vehicle | 1 |
| Other crimes against public justice | 4 |
| Other group 1 crimes | 13 |
| Other Group 2 crimes | 2 |
| Other Group 3 crimes | 5 |
| Other possession of offensive weapon/knife NEC (used in criminal activity) | 2 |
| Rape | 6 |
| Robbery (including assault with intent to rob) | 5 |
| Sexual assault | 11 |
| Stalking | 1 |
| Threatening or abusive behaviour | 390 |
| Threats and extortion | 1 |
| Vandalism (incl. reckless damage, etc.) | 9 |
| **Total** | **650** |

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as of 30th October 2024

1. The data prior to the 1st April 2024 has been extracted from the Interim Vulnerable Persons Database (iVPD) using the ‘incident created’ date where a disability aggravator is present.

2. The data from the 1st April 2024 has been extracted from the National Crime Unifi database using the ‘date raised’.

3. Please note, the data from iVPD has been extracted based on crimes/offences which include a disability aggravator.

4. Please note, the data from National Unifi Crime has been extracted based on crimes/offences which include at least one of the hate aggravators and/or are one of the following offences:

•Racially aggravated harassment

•Racially aggravated conduct

•Stirring up hatred: Racial

•Stirring up hatred: Other Group

•Race Relations Legislation (Public Order Act)

6. Please note, due to the different sources of data being used, and the different methodology/counting rules, comparison of recorded hates crimes from the 1st April 2024 with recorded hate crimes prior to the 1st April 2024 would not be advised. Any comparison of the two datasets should be carried out with caution.

7. Please note, each record would need to be read to confirm the circumstances.

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.