| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2739  Responded to: 17 November 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

1. The number of instances of police officer absences due to stress, anxiety, depression or other psychiatric illness in total in the last six years.   
  
Please express this data in two ways: firstly in calendar years (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 so far) and financial year (2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23) **Clarification: By number of instances of absence I mean the overall number of absences recorded (which may include multiple absences taken by the same police officer several times).**

Police Officer absence: reason psychological disorders to 30 September 2023.

|  | **2018/19** | **2019/20** | **2020/21** | **2021/22** | **2022/23** | **2023/24** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. of instances of absence | 992 | 1137 | 945 | 1037 | 1297 | 951 |

|  | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. of instances of absence | 963 | 1123 | 1031 | 1014 | 1238 | 1275 |

2. The number of police officers by headcount who took an absence due to stress anxiety, depression, or other psychiatric illness in the last six years.   
  
Please express this data in two ways: firstly in calendar years (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 so far) and financial year (2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23) **Clarification: This request differs from request 1 because I am asking for the number of officers who officially took an absence NOT the number of instances of absence which may count the same officer multiple times. For example, 200 officers may have taken an absence but there may be 472 recorded instances of absence.**

Police Officer absence by headcount: reason psychological disorders to 30 September 2023.

|  | **2018/19** | **2019/20** | **2020/21** | **2021/22** | **2022/23** | **2023/24** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. of instances of absence | 880 | 1020 | 835 | 928 | 1164 | 872 |

|  | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. of instances of absence | 850 | 1020 | 912 | 903 | 118 | 1130 |

3. The number of working hours lost due to police officer mental health absences in total in the financial year 2022/23. **Clarification: Police officers refers to all bands/grade of officer.**

No. of Working Days Lost (WDL) was 59075 due to psychological disorders in 2022/23.

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.