| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1383  Responded to: 16 July 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**In my role, I am currently writing some guidance for staff supporting people who may be affected by / at risk of ‘Honour’ based abuse. As part of this it would be useful to include some local statistics for East Lothian and Midlothian.**

**Could I please therefore request information on numbers of police call outs / Police involvement in East Lothian and Midlothian over the last year where this was a factor?**

Honour Based Abuse (HBA) is an umbrella term that includes a wide range of abusive behaviours, crimes and offences ranging from emotional and psychological abuse to sexual crime and murder.

Having considered your request, we have taken the decision to engage section 18 of the Act and refuse to confirm or deny whether the information sought is held by Police Scotland.

Section 18 applies where the following two conditions are met:

- It would be contrary to the public interest to reveal whether the information is held.

- If the information was held, it would be exempt from disclosure in terms of one or more of the exemptions set out in sections 28 to 35, 38, 39(1) or 41 of the Act.

If the above data was held, the following exemptions would be considered relevant:

**Section 38(1)(b) - Personal Data**

Personal data is defined in Article 4 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as:

‘Information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person (“data subject”); an identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person.’

The number of HBA incidents when broken down by local policing division is a small number compared to when provided as a national number and poses a risk of identifying individuals involved.

**Section 39(1) – Health and Safety**

Information is exempt information if its disclosure would or would be likely to endanger the physical or mental health or safety of an individual.

As previously stated, when the number of HBA incidents are broken down by local policing, it poses a risk of identifying individuals. This could endanger the physical or mental health for those involved.

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.