| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-0877  Responded to: xx April 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

To first provide the relevant context, tackling domestic abuse is a priority for Police Scotland and we are committed to working with our partners to reduce the harm it causes and ultimately eradicate it.

Domestic abuse is a despicable and debilitating crime which affects all of our communities and has no respect for ability, age, ethnicity, gender, race, religion or sexual orientation.

Police Scotland will not tolerate it.

Police Scotland will proactively target perpetrators and support victims to prevent domestic abuse from damaging the lives of victims and their families.

Police Scotland defines domestic abuse as:

“Any form of physical, verbal, sexual, psychological or financial abuse which might amount to criminal conduct and which takes place within the context of a relationship. The relationship will be between partners (married, cohabiting, civil partnership or otherwise) or ex-partners. The abuse may be committed in the home or elsewhere including online”

This definition is included in the Joint Protocol between Police Scotland and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS), “In partnership challenging domestic abuse” which is a public document that can be found at the Police Scotland website on [Police Scotland (scotland.police.uk)](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/ymzlwhwj/joint-protocol-between-police-scotland-and-copfs-in-partnership-challenging-domestic-abuse.pdf?view=Standard) or on the COPFS website on [Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (copfs.gov.uk)](https://www.copfs.gov.uk/)

The Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) provides a formal way of sharing information about a partner’s abusive past, with a potential victim.

In making a disclosure, the scheme provides those individuals with information they may have been previously unaware of, giving them the power to review their situation, decide what is best for them and whether to continue their relationship.

The DSDAS operates with two main entry pathways for disclosure – the *Right to Ask (RTA)* and the *Power to Tell (PTT).*

**‘Right to Ask’**- Anyone can make a ‘Right to Ask’ application. The applicant may be concerned about themselves or may be making the application as they have concerns about someone else being at risk of domestic abuse.

**‘Power to Tell’** - This pathway is triggered when Police Scotland or partner agencies (statutory and/or third sector) receive or gathers information and/or intelligence about a person who may be at risk due to domestic abuse.

The individual who is in a relationship with a potential perpetrator of domestic abuse will be referred to as ‘Person **A**’.

The subject of the application who is in a relationship with person ‘A’ will be referred to as ‘Person **B**’.

## Turning to your request;

## How many proactive DSDAS have C division issued in the last year i.e. utilising the power to tell.

I can advise you that in the financial year 2023/24 (1st April to 31st March) C Division issued 188 ‘Power to Tell’ disclosures.

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.