| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1173  Responded to: 16th June 2023 |
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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/)

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

**I would like to place a FOI request for data on the number of reports of domestic abuse recorded and detected by the police in three City of Edinburgh multi-member wards: Forth, Almond and Inverleith. I would like to request that these data are provided for each ward by year (ideally calendar years from 2019-2020 to 2022-2023).**

Please find the requested information in the table below. I would ask that you note the caveats provided below the table.

Recorded IVPD Domestic Abuse Crimes in selected Multi-Member Wards, E Division

Period: 1st of January 2019 - 31st March 2023 (Calendar Years)

| Multi Member Ward | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023\* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Almond | 190 | 202 | 181 | 227 | 31 |
| Forth | 296 | 308 | 325 | 233 | 53 |
| Inverleith | 85 | 92 | 124 | 105 | 11 |
| Total | 571 | 602 | 630 | 565 | 95 |

Detected IVPD Domestic Abuse Crimes in selected Multi-Member Wards, E Division

Period: 1st of January 2019 - 31st March 2023 (Calendar Years)

| Multi Member Ward | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023\* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Almond | 121 | 144 | 116 | 168 | 15 |
| Forth | 196 | 216 | 230 | 150 | 24 |
| Inverleith | 62 | 68 | 90 | 61 | 7 |
| Total | 379 | 428 | 436 | 379 | 46 |

## Caveats:

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 at 01/06/2023.

Data was extracted based on the crime's recorded date for recorded crimes and detected date for detected crimes.

The interim Vulnerable Persons Database (iVPD) is the formal means by which Police Scotland record police contact with adults, children and young people who are, or are perceived to be, experiencing some form of adversity and / or situational vulnerability, which may impact on their current or future wellbeing; or where force policy dictates. E.g. Domestic abuse, hate crime, youth offending or to record details of victim’s rights under Section 8 and 9 of the [Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2014](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2014/1/contents/enacted).

Contact is recorded as a Concern Report on the iVPD and Police Scotland record a concern report in relation to all incidents of domestic abuse. The domestic abuse statistics are obtained from the iVPD.

Police Scotland does not retain any information for statistical purposes once a record has been weeded from iVPD.  When a record is weeded, it is removed from the system, and there is no retention of data outside the weeding and retention policy.  Please note, the weeding and retention policy states that if a person is recorded as "no concern / not applicable" then this will only be retained for 6 months.

Please note that these data are collated from the Police Scotland iVPD system, which has an automated weeding and retention policy built on to it. A copy of the retention policy is available on the Police Scotland internet site (<https://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/2021/june/21-1479-sop-records-retention/>).

**I would also like to request the total number of recorded and detected crime in multi-member wards: Forth, Almond and Inverleith (calendar years from 2019-2020 to 2022-2023).**

Please be advised that the requested information is intended for future publication.

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 26(1) of the Act - information intended for future publication:

“Information is exempt information if it is held with a view to its being published by a Scottish public authority; or any other person at a date not later than twelve weeks after that on which the request for the information is made.”

I can confirm that the information will be published on the below webpage:

[Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/)

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.