| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1842  Responded to: 09 September 2024 |
| --- | --- |

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

## I am looking to request the following information if possible in relation to Violence against Women and Girls:

## How many crimes against women and girls were recorded during 2022/23 and what percentage of all recorded crimes does this account for.

## Do you have the number of offences recorded every day?

## Do you have figures on how much crimes against women and girls have increased from 2018 until 2023?

## Do you have the number of female victims from violence from the last five years?

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request.

I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

We are unable to search potentially relevant crime reports for the period based on the sex of the victim. That means that each crime report would have to be individually assessed and the details extracted and noted.

## Do you have figures for how much child sexual abuse and exploitation crimes has increased between 2013 and 2022.

The figures below comprise of the following crime types which represent a cross section of online child sexual abuse from data that is available. The crime types are as follows:

* Cause to be Present Sex Act/To Look at Sex Image – M&F (< 13)
* Cause to be Present Sex Act/To Look at Sex Image – M&F (13-15)
* Communicate Indecently/Cause see/hear Indec Comm – M&F (< 13)
* Communicate Indecently/Cause see/hear Indec Comm – M&F (13-15)
* Grooming of children for the purposes of sexual offences
* Taking, distribution, possession etc. of indecent photos of children

It should be noted that the significant majority of these offences are committed online, however some may also include an element of offline offending.

In financial year 2022/23, the number of Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (OCSAE) crimes recorded had increased by 61.0% or 712 crimes compared to financial year 2013/14. 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 28th August 2024.

## Are you able to say if violence against women is a “national threat” as has been announced in England and Wales.

We have utilised the Management of Risk in Law Enforcement (MoRiLE) risk assessment to identify the Force Control Strategy (FCS). This assessment provides insight into the areas of highest threat, harm and risk, coupled with our organisational position. This assessment was refreshed for the 2024 update to ensure any changes since the previous iteration of the Strategic Assessment were captured.

The MoRiLE risk assessment provides a structured assessment of the threat, risk and harm posed by crime types from both an operational and organisational perspective. By using harm scoring and organisational assessment it provides the opportunity to assess the organisations understanding of threat risk and harm along with an insight into current and future demand, capacity and capability issues facing the force.

Police Scotland is committed to protecting the people of Scotland, and we will continue our dedication to improving our services for victims of gender-based violence. Police Scotland has a critical role to play in preventing violence and safeguarding women and girls. Our vision is to create a society and culture where women and girls live free from all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation and harassment.

The focus on VAWG does not mean men and boys are excluded but recognises that women and girls are disproportionately affected by particular forms of violence, because they are women and girls.

## Can you provide any information, figures or findings on whether the internet has increased violence against women that the police may have recorded.

I can advise you that Police Scotland does not hold the above requested information. In terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that information is not held.

To explain, this information is not recorded.

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.