| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-3018  Responded to: 15th December 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## The number of working hours lost due to police officer mental health absences in total in the last 6 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)

I must first of all advise you that Working Days Lost is the only way that absence is recorded within Police Scotland and data is only recorded by financial year.

Please see the below table which sets out the Working Days Lost attributed to mental health absences each financial year from 2017/18 to 2022/23.

| **Year** | **Police Officer** | **Police staff** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2022/23 | 59073 | 22828 |
| 2021/22 | 51290 | 25142 |
| 2020/21 | 44295 | 23820 |
| 2019/20 | 43413 | 20384 |
| 2018/19 | 35283 | 8623 |
| 2017/18 | 37191 | 9298 |

The data presented has been extracted from Police Scotland’s System to Co-ordination Personnel and Establishment (SCOPE). Police Scotland came into existence on 1 April 2013 and inherited a diverse range of functions, structures and responsibilities along with a substantial restructuring process.

Absence Statistics prior to Police Scotland’s existence was recorded on the basis of legacy structure and as a result of the amalgamation of different systems across Scotland, the quality of the data cannot be guaranteed until April 2015 onwards.

Please note that due to improvements in reporting protocols, 2021/22 provides the first true reflection of absence.

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.