| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1517  Responded to: 16th June 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## This is an FOI to get details on cases of unaccompanied asylum seeker children (UASC) who went missing from hotels housing asylum seekers.

## Between the dates of July 1st 2021 to June 1st 2023, how many unaccompanied asylum seeker children (UASC) have lived in Home Office commissioned hotel accommodation in Scotland?

## How many unaccompanied asylum seeker children (UASC) are living in Home Office commissioned hotel accommodation in Scotland, as of June 1st 2023?

In terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

You may wish to contact the Home Office and/or the various Scottish Local Authorities for assistance with this part of your request.

## Between the dates of July 1st 2021 to June 1st 2023, how many unaccompanied asylum seeker children (UASC) living in Home Office commissioned hotel accommodation in Scotland - outside the care of local authority children’s services - have gone missing in Scotland Police’s policing area?

## Between the dates of July 1st 2021 to June 1st 2023, how many unaccompanied asylum seeker children (UASC) living in Home Office commissioned hotel accommodation in Scotland - outside the care of local authority children’s services - are still missing in Scotland Police’s policing area?

## Between the dates of July 1st 2021 to June 1st 2023, how many unaccompanied asylum seeker children (UASC) who went missing from Home Office commissioned hotel accommodation in Scotland - outside the care of local authority children’s services - have Scotland Police found?

## a) Between the dates of July 1st 2021 to June 1st 2023, how many unaccompanied asylum seeker children (UASC) who went missing from Home Office commissioned hotel accommodation in Scotland - outside the care of local authority children’s services - were found in situations where they could have been, or are suspected to have been, victims of crime or exploitation?

## Regarding missing UASC children who have been found by Scotland Police and have been - or are suspected to have been - victims of crime, can you tell us what crimes? And have there been any further arrests and/or charges if so?

Having considered these questions in terms of the above Act, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

By way of explanation, the National Missing Persons Database has no search facility available which would allow for the automatic retrieval of “unaccompanied asylum-seeking children”.

The only possible way to provide you with an accurate response would be to carry out case by case assessment of all missing person reports of children and determine whether the circumstances of the child were relevant to your request and also extract the other requested details.

This would involve individually examining a vast number of reports, which is an exercise that I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

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.