| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1241  Responded to: 12th June 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Please provide the number of allegations of racial discrimination by police officers working for your force, broken down by the age and ethnicity of the complainant, in each quarter from Jan-Mar 2019 to Jan-March 2023. These allegations should be the same as defined in table 7 of the** [**IOPC annual police complaints statistics tables**](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.policeconduct.gov.uk%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2FDocuments%2Fstatistics%2FData_tables_21_22.ods&data=05%7C01%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7C0f633326b4284ef2540b08db5167f342%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638193279133096712%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=n0zUhYuY9%2FHC6OIHw8VAjcizGuloQPwufwlUw0Eqojc%3D&reserved=0)**:**

* **Allegation category - Discriminatory behaviour**
* **Allegation subcategory - Race**

**Please use the following age categories if possible:**

* **17 or under, 18-24, 25-30, 30+**

It should be noted first of all that the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) oversees the police complaints system in England and Wales. Their remit does not extend to Scotland.

The Police Investigations & Review Commissioner (PIRC) was established in 2013 when to provide independent oversight of Police Scotland, investigate incidents involving the police and review the way the police handle complaints from the public.

The Police Scotland [Complaints About the Police Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/fifhh5vo/complaints-about-the-police-sop.pdf) outlines how we deal with complaints.

Our complaints are categorised as per the headings in appendices G and H of the document and on this occasion they do, fortunately, align to the terminology used in your request.

The table below details discriminatory behaviour allegations with a race sub type, by calendar year and quarter.

It should be noted that each complaint can contain a number of allegations.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Calendar Year and Quarter** | **Number of allegations** |
| 2019 - Quarter 1 | 19 |
| 2019 - Quarter 2 | 12 |
| 2019 - Quarter 3 | 13 |
| 2019 - Quarter 4 | 5 |
| 2020 - Quarter 1 | 12 |
| 2020 - Quarter 2 | 19 |
| 2020 - Quarter 3 | 19 |
| 2020 - Quarter 4 | 15 |
| 2021 - Quarter 1 | 9 |
| 2021 - Quarter 2 | 17 |
| 2021 - Quarter 3 | 22 |
| 2021 - Quarter 4 | 14 |
| 2022 - Quarter 1 | 17 |
| 2022 - Quarter 2 | 17 |
| 2022 - Quarter 3 | 15 |
| 2022 - Quarter 4 | 14 |
| 2023 - Quarter 1 | 19 |
| **Total** | **258** |

*1 Data is based on the case received date.   
2 Data in the table above is linked to allegations against Police officers only.*

You also asked for a breakdown by the age and ethnicity of the complainant.

Please note that complainers are counted once per relevant complaint case and each complainer may be linked to multiple allegations. Therefore the number of complainers may vary from the number of allegations.

The table below details complainers linked to discriminatory behaviour allegations with a race sub type, by calendar year, quarter and complainer age group:

| **Calendar Year and Quarter** | **Age 0-17** | **Age 18-24** | **Age 25-30** | **Age 30+** | **Age Unknown** | **Total** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2019 - Quarter 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 3 | **13** |
| 2019 - Quarter 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 0 | **9** |
| 2019 - Quarter 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 4 | **14** |
| 2019 - Quarter 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | **5** |
| 2020 - Quarter 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 4 | **13** |
| 2020 - Quarter 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 2 | **17** |
| 2020 - Quarter 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 16 | 0 | **18** |
| 2020 - Quarter 4 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 3 | **14** |
| 2021 - Quarter 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 0 | **9** |
| 2021 - Quarter 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 11 | 3 | **17** |
| 2021 - Quarter 3 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 13 | 2 | **22** |
| 2021 - Quarter 4 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 1 | **14** |
| 2022 - Quarter 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 3 | **14** |
| 2022 - Quarter 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 13 | 3 | **18** |
| 2022 - Quarter 3 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 11 | 0 | **15** |
| 2022 - Quarter 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 0 | **14** |
| 2023 - Quarter 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 14 | 2 | **19** |
| **Total** | **4** | **15** | **30** | **165** | **31** | **245** |

*1 Data is based on the case received date.   
2 Data in the table above is linked to allegations against Police officers only.*

Ethnicity data is not recorded on the Professional Standards database therefore section 17 of the Act applies - the information is *not held* by Police Scotland.

It should be noted that quarterly data contained in Professional Standards Department public facing [performance reports](https://www.spa.police.uk/meetings/complaints-and-conduct-committee/01-march-2023/) is based on financial year periods, which will vary from the periods you have specified in this request.

For example, quarter 1 within a calendar year covers the months of January to March (inclusive), whereas quarter 1 within a financial year covers the months of April to June (inclusive).

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.