| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-0506  Responded to: 12 March 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Please detail the number of individuals who were wanted on court arrest warrants for common assault, serious assault or rape for at least three months before they were arrested (or were never arrested).

## Please break the data down into type of offence, the month the warrant was issued and the length of time before the individual was arrested. Please supply the data for warrants issued between Jan 2021 and December 2023.

In response, please first of all be advised that initiating warrants is undertaken by Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Office (COPFS) and Police Scotland will subsequently execute the warrant according to the instruction contained within that warrant.

Accordingly, you may wish to direct your request to COPFS, who may be able to provide further information - [foi@copfs.gov.uk](mailto:foi@copfs.gov.uk)

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request and I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

To explain, we are unable to provide historical information regarding non-live warrants, other than by individual review of them on a case by case basis. We would have to review all non-live warrants issued between 2021 and 2023 for the offences listed to ascertain how long they were live for and whether the closure was due to an arrest.

To be of assistance, I can provide some data in relation to *live, outstanding* warrants for the relevant offences as at 27 February 2024 - broken down by year and month issued (please note that serious assault is not recorded as a separate category):

Assault - 807

Assault of Police - 56

Rape - 16

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| **2021** | **J** | **F** | **M** | **A** | **M** | **J** | **J** | **A** | **S** | **O** | **N** | **D** |
| Assault | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 9 | 7 | 10 | 11 | 11 |
| Assault of Police |  | 1 | 1 | 1 |  |  |  |  | 1 |  | 1 | 1 |
| Rape |  | 1 |  | 1 | 1 |  |  | 1 |  |  | 1 |  |

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| **2023** | **J** | **F** | **M** | **A** | **M** | **J** | **J** | **A** | **S** | **O** | **N** | **D** |
| Assault | 36 | 25 | 32 | 22 | 32 | 43 | 44 | 55 | 44 | 54 | 91 | 93 |
| Assault of Police | 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Rape |  | 1 |  |  | 1 |  | 1 | 1 |  | 1 | 1 | 1 |

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| **2022** | **J** | **F** | **M** | **A** | **M** | **J** | **J** | **A** | **S** | **O** | **N** | **D** |
| Assault | 4 | 12 | 9 | 12 | 10 | 15 | 19 | 14 | 11 | 16 | 18 | 18 |
| Assault of Police |  |  |  | 2 | 1 |  | 1 | 1 |  | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Rape | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 1 |  | 1 |  |

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.