| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-3093Responded to: 15 December 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**According to the Daily Mail, 'sexual misconduct allegations have been dumped within the ‘other’ category, which contains 433 general complaints carrying no details of what they are about':**

[**EXCLUSIVE: Police Scotland in secrecy storm over number of officers facing sexual misconduct claims | Daily Mail Online**](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12791205/Police-Scotland-secrecy-storm-number-officers-facing-sexual-misconduct-claims.html)

1. **Please provide information accounting for this move away from transparency.**

To clarify, the figure of 433 you refer to is *referrals* made to the National Gateway Assessment Unit (also known as the Gateway Unit) within the Professional Standards Department (PSD).

The Gateway Unit is responsible for the initial assessment and recording of all internal referrals in relation to conduct, integrity or safeguarding concerns.

These referrals are not initially classed as ‘complaints’ albeit this may change following assessment.

There has been a recent change in the reporting format in relation to the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) Complaints and Conduct Committee Performance Report, published quarterly, which the article appears to refer to. This was done for strategic purposes, with the agreement of the SPA and senior executive officers at Police Scotland.

Within the Gateway Unit, there are several referral categories and as a result of the change in format, some lower volume categories have been merged.

For sexual misconduct, this has been merged within the title listed as ‘Other’.

However, we have published a significant number of FOIs on the subject of sexual allegations attached to complaint and conduct cases.

We continue to be transparent in this area and these can be found by searching the Police Scotland [Disclosure Log](https://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/).

1. **Please provide a full list of all categories used to record misconduct allegations (i) before and (ii) after the change.**
2. **Please provide details of all allegations in addition to sexual allegations that have been added to the 'other' category.**

Below is a full list of categories which were listed prior to the latest performance report submitted to the SPA Complaints and Conduct Committee (CCC).

Those with an asterisk are now included in the ‘Other (grouped)’ category.

The remaining categories are unchanged.

Abuse of Authority \*

Audit Request \*

Business Interest

Conditional Posting \*

Controlled Drug Use and Supply \*

Disclosure of Information \*

Exploitation of the Privilege of Office \*

Grievance Related Matter \*

Inappropriate Association \*

Inappropriate Social Media \*

Misuse of Force Systems \*

Notifiable Association

Organisational Risk

Other \*

Other Criminal Behaviour

Performance

Sexual Misconduct \*

Theft And Fraud \*

Vulnerability \*

To further assist, the table below provides a breakdown of the categories associated with the 433 ‘Other (grouped)’ you refer to:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Gateway Category** | **Number** |
| Abuse of Authority | 9 |
| Audit Request | 47 |
| Conditional Posting | 2 |
| Controlled Drug Use and Supply | 47 |
| Disclosure of Information  | 86 |
| Exploitation of the Privilege Of Office | 3 |
| Grievance Related Matter | 21 |
| Inappropriate Association | 51 |
| Inappropriate Social Media | 21 |
| Misuse of Force Systems | 15 |
| Other | 10 |
| Sexual Misconduct | 26 |
| Theft And Fraud | 11 |
| Vulnerability | 84 |
| **Grand Total** | **433** |

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 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 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.