| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-0477  Responded to: 14 March 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

Tackling domestic abuse is a priority for Police Scotland and we are committed to working with our partners to reduce the harm it causes and ultimately eradicate it.

Domestic abuse is a despicable and debilitating crime which affects all of our communities and has no respect for ability, age, ethnicity, gender, race, religion or sexual orientation.

Police Scotland will not tolerate it.

Police Scotland will proactively target perpetrators and support victims to prevent domestic abuse from damaging the lives of victims and their families.

Police Scotland defines domestic abuse as:

“Any form of physical, verbal, sexual, psychological or financial abuse which might amount to criminal conduct and which takes place within the context of a relationship.

The relationship will be between partners (married, cohabiting, civil partnership or otherwise) or ex-partners.

The abuse may be committed in the home or elsewhere including online”

This definition is included in the Joint Protocol between Police Scotland and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS), “*In partnership challenging domestic abuse*” which is a public document that can be found on the [Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/ymzlwhwj/joint-protocol-between-police-scotland-and-copfs-in-partnership-challenging-domestic-abuse.pdf?view=Standard) website or on the [COPFS](http://www.copfs.gov.uk/) website.

## Under the Freedom of Information Act, could you please tell me for the calendar years, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023:

## the number of domestic abuse offences recorded by police where the victim is male

Please be advised that the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 came into force on 1 April 2019. As such, I can provide the following data from 1 April 2019 to 31 December 2023:

| **Crime Type** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Domestic Abuse (of male) | 66 | 77 | 99 | 84 | 118 |

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. Data has been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and is correct as at 6 March 2024.

## the number of recorded domestic homicides where the victim is male

| **Homicides** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Resolved | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Unresolved | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 |

Unresolved homicides are considered those where:

1. No suspect has been identified
2. A suspect has been identified but not charged (no proceedings)
3. A suspect has been identified and charged but not placed on petition (no proceedings)
4. A suspect has appeared on petition but no indictment served due to there being considered an insufficiency of evidence at that time (no proceedings)
5. A suspect has been indicted and a trial concluded which has resulted in an acquittal (Not Guilty/Not Proven)
6. A suspect has been convicted but acquitted on appeal and no fresh prosecution has been authorised by the Appeal Court (Not Guilty)
7. A suspect has committed suicide prior to trial and no other person is being sought in connection with the case.
8. A suspect has been charged then reported and is awaiting trial.

Furthermore, many homicides (particularly those committed during the last few years during the Covid 19 pandemic) are still awaiting court proceedings to bring them to a legal conclusion. In this regard Police Scotland categorise and record these homicides as **unresolved.**

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.