| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0092  Responded to: 2nd February 2023 |
| --- | --- |

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 at the Police Scotland website on [Police Scotland (scotland.police.uk)](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/ymzlwhwj/joint-protocol-between-police-scotland-and-copfs-in-partnership-challenging-domestic-abuse.pdf?view=Standard) or on the COPFS website on [Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (copfs.gov.uk)](https://www.copfs.gov.uk/)

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Please provide the following information:**

**1) The total number of Disclosure Requests made under the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (also known as “Clare’s Law”)" during the period 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022 inclusive by Gender, Age, & Ethnicity.**

**For your ease of reference, please provide the details for the “Person at Risk” i.e. the person for whom the enquiry has been made by directly and/or on behalf of.**

The total number of applications made under the Domestic Abuse Disclosure Scheme (DSDAS) between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2022 is 4,293. This can be separated into 2,979 Power to Tell applications and 1,314 Right To Ask applications.

In regards to gender this related to 3,953 female and 340 male persons at potential risk.

In regards to age please find the information in the table at the end of the response.

In regards to ethnicity please find the information in the table below which again relates to the person at potential risk:

| Ethnicity | Count of Ethnicity |
| --- | --- |
| Not Recorded | 1864 |
| African | 5 |
| Bangladeshi | 1 |
| Black Scottish or other black | 5 |
| Chinese | 2 |
| Indian | 4 |
| Other ethnic group | 19 |
| Other South Asian | 1 |
| Pakistani | 5 |
| Prefer not to say | 52 |
| White other | 236 |
| White Scottish | 2099 |

**2) During the period 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022 inclusive, please provide the Gender of the person making the enquiry regarding their current partner and/or the person making the enquiry directly on behalf of the “Person at Risk”.**

In response to your request, 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, our system does not have a way to automatically retrieve the information requested and so each application would have to be manually checked. In this case 437 records would need to be manually checked. At a conservative estimate of 10 minutes per record, this equates to over 72 hours of work to provide the information requested.

Police Scotland have assessed that the £600 cost limit within the Act equates to 40 hours of work and so this part of your request would breach the cost threshold.

You may wish to consider reducing the timescale of your request although as only a single year has been requested currently, it is doubtful useful statistics can be provided.

To be of some assistance however, I can confirm that of the 437 3rd party right to ask applications received, 365 were for female persons at potential risk and 72 were male persons at potential risk.

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.

| **Age/Gender** | **16-18** | **19-21** | **22-24** | **25-27** | **28-30** | **31-33** | **34-36** | **37-39** | **40-42** | **43-45** | **46-48** | **49-51** | **52-54** | **55-57** | **58-60** | **61 and Over** | **Under 16** | **Total** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Female | 117 | 249 | 368 | 431 | 479 | 538 | 477 | 360 | 274 | 201 | 142 | 104 | 66 | 45 | 24 | 33 | 45 | 3953 |
| Male | 4 | 22 | 13 | 20 | 41 | 49 | 40 | 37 | 25 | 24 | 12 | 17 | 15 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 7 | 340 |
| **Total** | **121** | **271** | **381** | **451** | **520** | **587** | **517** | **397** | **299** | **225** | **154** | **121** | **81** | **51** | **31** | **34** | **52** | **4293** |