| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-1083Responded to: 26th April 2023 |
| --- | --- |

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

Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding to your request.

**I would like to request how many complaints have been made by members of the public against police officers for inappropriate behaviour towards women between January 2021 and March 2023.**

**I am defining inappropriate behaviour as:**

* **Wolf whistling**
* **Asking for people’s numbers or social media account**
* **Touching**
* **Staring**
* **Taking inappropriate photos**
* **Flashing**

**Could I please have the data broken down using the following criteria:**

* **The year that the incident occurred**
* **The details of the complaint - e.g. a police officer wolf whistled at a member of the public**
* **The outcome of the complaint**
* **Whether the incident happened at a public event - e.g. a protest or a football game**

Unfortunately we are unable to search complaints data by the categories of behaviour listed in your request as they do not align to our recording categories which are detailed in appendices G and H of 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).

I therefore regret to inform you that despite the refined time period of this second request, 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.

All complaints would have to be individually assessed for relevance to the behaviours listed in your request.

As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Act where section 12(1) (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

Notwithstanding, to be of assistance in relation to part of your request seeking data on ‘flashing’, I can advise you that between January 2021 and March 2023, one police officer was reported for *sexual exposure* in terms of section 8, section 25 or section 35 of the [Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2009/9/section/8/enacted).

This was an ‘off duty’ incident which occurred in 2022 within a private dwelling.

This matter remains ongoing and, in terms of Regulation 9 of the Police Service of Scotland (Conduct) Regulations 2014, consideration of misconduct proceedings is currently suspended until the outcome of any criminal proceedings are concluded.

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.