| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-3031  Responded to: 06 February 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1. In relation to the response to FOI-24-2661, please advise what proportion of the serving police officers reported to COPFS by way of SPR for domestic abuse in each of the last 8 years are male and what proportion are female?

As per our response to FOI-24-2661, The Professional Standards Department (PSD) database holds a ‘domestic circumstance’ marker that can be appended to any case containing allegations which are perceived to contain a domestic element which are included in the data provided.

*Table 1: Number of officers who been subject of a Standard Police Report (SPR) to the Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) for offences/crimes with a domestic element, broken down by financial year1 and gender:-*

| **Financial year** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2016/17 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| 2017/18 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| 2018/19 | 9 | 1 | 10 |
| 2019/20 | 17 | 1 | 18 |
| 2020/21 | 10 | 2 | 12 |
| 2021/22 | 17 | 4 | 21 |
| 2022/23 | 15 | 3 | 18 |
| 2023/24 | 9 | 3 | 12 |

*1 Data provided is accurate as at 25/10/2024*

**2. How many serving police officers have been the subject of domestic abuse allegations in each of the past 8 years and please provide a breakdown of how many are male and how many are female?**

Figures provided in the table below detail the number of subject officers linked to an allegation involving a domestic circumstance, broken down by sex of the subject officer and the financial year received between 01/04/2016 and 31/03/2024 inclusive. As per the specifics of your request, these figures refer to Police officers only.

*Table 2: Subject officers linked to allegations involving a domestic circumstance (complaints and conduct), by sex and financial year 1*

| **Financial year** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2016/17 | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| 2017/18 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| 2018/19 | 10 | 1 | 11 |
| 2019/20 | 20 | 3 | 23 |
| 2020/21 | 16 | 2 | 18 |
| 2021/22 | 19 | 10 | 29 |
| 2022/23 | 23 | 5 | 28 |
| 2023/24 | 18 | 5 | 23 |

1.Data is based on the case received date

**3. Of those police officers who have been the subject of allegations of domestic abuse in each of the past 8 years, how many were suspended and of those suspended, how many were male and how many female?**

Figures provided in the table below detail the number of subject officers linked to an allegation involving a domestic circumstance who were suspended in relation to those allegations, broken down by sex of the subject officer and the financial year received between 01/04/2016 and 31/03/2024 inclusive.

Please note that the date of suspension may vary from the case received date, therefore the financial year of the case received may vary from the financial year in which the suspension commenced.

This data is based on snapshot taken at 13/01/2025. Figures may be subject to change at a later date.

*Table 3: Police officers suspended in relation to allegations involving a domestic circumstance (complaints and conduct), by sex and financial year 1*

| **Financial year** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2016/17 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2017/18 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2018/19 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 2019/20 | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| 2020/21 | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| 2021/22 | 9 | 1 | 10 |
| 2022/23 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| 2023/24 | 7 | 1 | 8 |

## 4. What is Police Scotland's policy in respect of suspending officers who have been charged with crimes of domestic abuse and crimes of dishonesty?

The formal conduct process for Police Officers is governed by [The Police Service of Scotland (Conduct) Regulations 2014](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2014/68/contents/made).

The associated [Scottish Government Guidance Document](https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/factsheet/2018/04/conduct-and-performance-procedures-police-guidance/documents/police-guidance-conduct-procedures/police-guidance-conduct-procedures/govscot%3Adocument/Police%2BService%2Bof%2BScotland%2B%2528conduct%2529%2Bregulations%2B2014.pdf) further details the process and conduct cases are categorised in line with our [Standards of Professional Behaviour](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/who-we-are/our-standards-of-professional-behaviour/).

As detailed within the [Suspension from Duty SOP](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/3mbmetbo/suspension-from-duty-sop.pdf), only in cases where an effective criminal or misconduct investigation may be prejudiced if the officer is not suspended and/or having regard to the nature of the allegation and any other relevant considerations will suspension be imposed.  The decision to suspend an officer, made by the Deputy Chief Constable (DCC) Designate, will normally only be taken after each set of individual circumstances have been rigorously and objectively examined.

## 5. Please supply the Police Perpetrated Domestic Abuse Review document which was partially presented to the SPA Complaints and Conduct Committee on 6th June 2024 by Chief Superintendent Helen Harrison, Head of PSD?

In terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I must advise that at this time, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information you have requested and the exemption(s) that I consider to be applicable are set out at:

* Section 30(b) Prejudice to Effective Conduct of Public Affairs

The exemptions in section 30(b) focus on the effect that disclosure of information would have (or would be likely to have) on the free and frank provision of advice or the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation.

To advise, that the review was commissioned by then ACC Speirs who committed to undertaking a review of PPDA as part of the wider integrity screening exercise undertaken in 2023 which included the Historic Data Wash (check of all police, staff and volunteers to ensure no unknown or undisclosed adverse information existed), and an updated review of all internal reports of sexual misconduct.

The report established a number of key findings and recommendations which are being used to inform improvements to practices, processes and procedures within Police Scotland for the investigation of reports of Police Perpetrated Domestic Abuse. This includes staff and volunteers, both on and off duty.

This is a non-absolute exemption which requires the application of the Public Interest Test.

## Public Interest Test

It could be argued that there is a public interest in disclosure of such information as it would contribute to greater transparency and openness.

Nevertheless, on balance Police Scotland consider that the release of the requested information, would significantly limit and de-value the review process as set by Police Scotland. The review process provides Police Scotland with the opportunity to illustrate thinking, deliberation, viewpoints and opinions in a transparent and open manner without the fear that these workings will be released prior to their full consideration and ratification.

Release of this information would inhibit and undermine the aims and outcomes of the review process, constricting the future information provided, therefore undermining this valuable contribution it makes to the quality of the outcome.

There can be no public interest in disclosing information which would make it more difficult to offer an efficient and effective service.

## 6. In respect of the 14 recommendations from the Police Perpetrated Domestic Abuse document, please supply full details of exactly what a victim of PPDA can expect from Police Scotland.

A victim of Police Perpetrated Domestic Abuse (PPDA) can expect to be believed and for Police Scotland to take their report seriously, as we would with any report of domestic abuse/VAWG.

The welfare of the victim will be considered throughout any investigation. The matter that is being reported will be fully investigated by appropriately trained Detective Officers who will not be connected to the Perpetrator, will be independent and experienced investigators, who are aware of their responsibilities and understand both the policy of the force and the steps to be taken in any PPDA investigation, and what internal/external partners are available to assist in both the investigation and in supporting victims of PPDA.

Police Scotland will take steps to address any risk towards the victim, public, colleagues and organisation resulting from the report.

Police Scotland will also appropriately record all reports of PPDA with a view to identifying patterns and trends and repeat perpetrators.

When there is an inference of criminality in what is being reported, Police Scotland will inform/update COPFS and follow any instruction provided, and thereafter anything of relevance will be referred to the National Conduct Unit (Officers) or People & Development (staff) for assessment against the relevant conduct regulations/code of conduct.

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.