| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-0352  Responded to: 24 February 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**1, Number of officers currently serving within your force**

The information sought is held by Police Scotland, but I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the section 25(1) exemption applies:

“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it […] is exempt information.”

Data is available on the Police Scotland website:

[Police Scotland Officer Numbers - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/police-scotland-officer-numbers/)

In addition, the Scottish Government publish statistics on police officer quarterly strength, which gives the number of full-time-equivalent police officers employed by Police Scotland. This data is available on the Scottish Government website:

Police officer quarterly strength statistics Scotland

## 2, Number of officers assigned or posted to teams which primarily (or exclusively) deal with child criminal exploitation (such as county lines).

## 3, Number of officers assigned or posted to teams which primarily (or exclusively) deal with child sexual exploitation.

All Police Scotland officers are trained to identify and respond to child exploitation as part of initial training with further specialist training should officers move into the departments outlined below.

Each of Police Scotland’s 13 divisions have specialist public protection officers, some of whom are based in dedicated Child Abuse Investigation Units. The number of officers in each team varies depending on the size of the divisions. These officers are trained to investigate child protection matters including but not limited to, child protection concerns, physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, child exploitation and child neglect.

These specialist officers are frequently required to work alongside statutory multi-agency partners to protection children from harm and provide the necessary safety and support mechanisms to children and their families.

The number of specialist officers across the divisions is approximately 124 Constables from across all divisions.

We also have further specialist teams including Operation Marron, which is Police Scotland’s overarching response to county lines. This is National Team. County Lines encompasses a number of high threat crime areas and the exploitation of children and vulnerable young people poses the greatest risk.

There is an established governance structure within Police Scotland, with the County Lines Leads as follows:

Gold - Detective Chief Superintendent

Silver - Detective Superintendent

Bronze - Detective Chief Inspector

The County Lines Coordination Team comprises of;

County Lines Coordinator based in Aberdeen

Deputy County Lines Coordinator

Seconded Detective Sergeant (British Transport Police)

Detective Constable based in Inverness

County Lines Analyst

County Lines Analyst Researcher (currently vacant post)

The team liaise and provide coordination, oversight, and support to Divisions across Scotland, ensuring a consistent and joined up approach in prioritising the controlling networks that present the highest threat, risk, and harm nationally.

Operation Marron work in partnership with County Lines Coordination Teams in England and Wales and the National County Lines Coordination Centre (NCLCC) funded by the Home Office to maximise understanding of the threats and identification of crossovers within Scotland and the UK.

Police Scotland also work routinely with the County Lines Taskforces where the British Transport Police can deploy in Scotland. Police Scotland are also fortunate to secure assistance from the largest exporters of county lines, namely the Metropolitan Police, Merseyside, West Midlands, and Greater Manchester Police Taskforces to support nationwide law enforcement response.

In addition, within Police Scotland there are three National Child Abuse Investigation Units which were launched in April 2015 and comprise of police officers and police staff based within the East, West and North of the country. These units provide a national specialist investigative resource which can be dedicated to divisions to support local divisions with complex and high-level cases of child abuse, child death and child exploitation across Scotland, in addition to proactively capturing intelligence and information on those individuals posing significant risk to children within Scotland’s communities.

Another national resource within Police Scotland is the Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (OCSAE) Unit, which works closely with the NCAIU and local police divisions. This was formed as part of Police Scotland’s response to the investigative challenges of online child sexual abuse and provides a proactive response to this issue mainly though enforcement of National Online Child Abuse Prevention Packages. The overarching and primary consideration is the ongoing safety of children, whether that child is the victim of the perceived offending, is within the same household as the offender, or to whom the offender may have access. The OCSAE unit has dedicated resources based in the North, West and East command areas and can provide specialist assistance to divisionally based child abuse investigations, especially where online exploitation is apparent.

## 4, Number of officers assigned or posted to teams which primarily (or exclusively) deal with sex trafficking (forced prostitution).

Police Scotland’s National Human Trafficking Unit deals with all types of Human Trafficking and exploitation, not exclusively sex trafficking. Within this department are:

2 x Detective Inspectors

4 x Detective Sergeants

11 x Detective Constables

6 x Civilian members of staff

Police Scotland Greater Glasgow Division have a specialist Human Trafficking Unit and a Sexual Harm and Exploitation Unit who deal with all types of Human Trafficking and exploitation, again, not exclusively sex trafficking. This department consists of

1 x Detective Inspector

2 x Detective Sergeants

13 x Detective Constables

3 x Civilian members of staff

Other officers out with these departments will regularly deal with Human Trafficking cases, including sex trafficking depending on the location of incident, time of day it occurs and police resources. It is impossible to provide a number for this.

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](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) 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.