| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1336  Responded to: 19 June 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 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/)

**Under FOI I would please like to request how many of the 61,934 instances of domestic abuse recorded by Police Scotland during 2022-23 involved a victim which was pregnant**

After careful consideration of your request, I am afraid that I am unable to provide the data that 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.

By way of explanation, domestic abuse incidents involving pregnancy are recorded on the interim Vulnerable Persons Database with a ‘pregnancy’ marker. This marker however only relates to the incident rather than to a specific person involved therefore there is no simple way of determining whether it was the victim or perpetrator that was pregnant at the time of the incident.

The only way to provide you with this information in an accurate and consistent manner would be to individually examine each crime report created on our systems to determine whether the pregnancy marker referred to the victim, or not. Considering the numbers of incidents involved this is clearly an exercise which would exceed the cost limitations of the Act.

By way of assistance, I have provided the number of recorded domestic abuse incidents with a pregnancy marker from 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023, which is 1,303.

It is however imperative to note that domestic abuse incidents recorded by Police Scotland are only able to be recorded within the interim Vulnerable Persons Database with a pregnancy marker in circumstances where the pregnancy was known of and disclosed to the police. If a victim chooses not to disclose to the police that they are pregnant then this will not be recorded. Therefore, the above data is not a comprehensive understanding of the total numbers of pregnant victims of domestic abuse.

The figures show recorded domestic abuse incidents involving known and disclosed pregnancy between the dates requested.

Please note that these statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. Data has been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems.

The data was extracted using the incident's raised date and extracted from iVPD by selecting Domestic Incidents. Incident Nominals with a 'Pregnancy'/'Pregnancy (Unborn Child)' marker recorded within the 'Incident Marker' or the 'At Risk' table were identified. The Domestic Incidents with a 'Pregnancy' marker from either of the 2 identified tables (Incident Markers, At Risk) were then selected to collate the above figures.

Please note, more than one marker can be selected from the 'Incident Marker' table; and more than one marker can be selected from the 'At Risk' table; and more than one marker can be selected from the 'Incident Marker' table. The figures provided are a count of unique domestic incidents, not markers.

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.