| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-3067  Responded to: 14 March 2024 |
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## 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.

## Question 1. Could you please provide me with the number of callouts relating to domestic abuse? Could you please provide this data for the past five calendar years until the date of this request.

## Clarified: To clarify I am looking to establish the number of domestic abuse-related incidents that are responded to by Police Scotland (ie. They have been ‘called out’ to), rather than the number of incidents recorded.

## Should the timeframe of five years that is currently being asked for is deemed too long, I would be happy to discuss reducing the timeframe.

In response, please see the table below that provides the number of attended incidents with a final closure code of Domestic Incident, from 01 January 2019 to 31 December 2023 inclusive.

Please note the caveats at the bottom of the table.

Final closure code of Domestic Incident attended, from 01 January 2019 to 31 December 2023 inclusive.

|  | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Attended | 56588 | 54630 | 52725 | 52650 | 53775 |

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 9/1/2024.

The data was extracted using the incident's raised date and by using Final Service Code Domestic Incident.

Please note, "Attended" Storm Incidents are defined by a valid timestamp within the "At Scene" variable.

## Question 2. Could you please provide me with the number of cases which have a domestic abuse aggravator attached to the charge, and where bail conditions have been broken? Could you please provide this data for the past five calendar years until the date of this request.

Please see the table below for the number of bail offences with a domestic aggravator. Please note the caveats at the bottom of the table.

The data has been extracted from the interim Vulnerable Persons Database (iVPD). The iVPD is the formal means by which Police Scotland record police contact with adults, children and young people who are, or are perceived to be, experiencing some form of adversity and / or situational vulnerability, which may impact on their current or future wellbeing; or where force policy dictates e.g. domestic abuse, hate crime, youth offending or to record details of victim’s rights under Section 8 and 9 of the Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2014.

The iVPD is a dynamic database which is constantly being updated and changed.

Bail offences with a domestic aggravator, 01 January 2019 to 31 December 2023:

| Year | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Number of offences | 3325 | 4225 | 4632 | 4269 | 4154 |

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. The data is extracted from the Interim Vulnerable Person’s Database (iVPD) and are correct as at 9/1/2024.

## Question 3. Could you please provide me with the number of cases concerning domestic abuse that are not taken on by the COPFS? Could you please provide this data for the past five calendar years until the date of this request.

Police Scotland does not hold prosecution information. As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

You may wish to contact the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscals Service (COPFS) which holds conviction information for Scotland. A request can be submitted to COPFS via email using the following address [foi@copfs.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:foi@copfs.gsi.gov.uk).

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.