| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-2846  Responded to: xx November 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

Police Scotland’s - National Missing Persons Application (NMPA) was launched in April 2019 and we are unable to provide accurate data for missing persons prior to this date.

On that basis section 17 of the Act applies and I can confirm that the information sought is not held by Police Scotland for any earlier period.

## How many individual children were reported missing to your force from January 1 2019 to November 7, 2024 (broken down by year)

For the purposes of missing persons investigations, a child in Scotland has been defined as a person aged under 16 years old or under 18 years old and subject to a supervision order. That is under review and in accordance with current guidance from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children, whereby a child is any person under 18 years old, the figures provided for children are all persons under 18 years old.

A total of 53,603 children were reported missing in the period between 01/04/2019 and 11/11/2024 broken by calendar year as follows:

Table 1: Children Reported Missing 01/04/2019 – 11/11/2024

| **Year** | **Children Reported Missing** |
| --- | --- |
| 2019\* | 6,999 |
| 2020 | 8,623 |
| 2021 | 9,034 |
| 2022 | 10,114 |
| 2023 | 10,581 |
| 2024\*\* | 8,252 |

Data begins on 01/04/2019\* is up to and correct as of 11/11/2024\*\*

## How many individual adults were reported missing to your force from January 1 2019 to November 7, 2024 (broken down by year)

The term ‘adult’ has been interpreted to mean persons aged 18 years old and over.

A total of 38,422 children were reported missing in the period between 01/04/2019 and 11/11/2024 broken by calendar year as follows:

## Table 2: Adults Reported Missing 01/04/2019 – 11/11/2024

| **Year** | **Adults Reported Missing** |
| --- | --- |
| 2019\* | 5,114 |
| 2020 | 6,666 |
| 2021 | 7,304 |
| 2022 | 7,553 |
| 2023 | 6,670 |
| 2024\*\* | 5,115 |

Data begins on 01/04/2019\* is up to and correct as of 11/11/2024\*\*

## How many of these missing cases remain unsolved (broken down by cases involving children and cases involving adults)?

At the time of response 81 cases remain open, six of which are children and 75 are adults.

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.