| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2126  Responded to: 21 September 2023 |
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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.

## Out of the total domestic incidents which resulted in a VPD/IVPD being created between 1st January and 31st March 2023, how many listed no crime or criminality detected

The information provided below has been extracted from Police Scotland’s interim Vulnerable Person’s Database (iVPD).

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. For example, 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](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2014/1/contents/enacted).

Please see the tables provided below for the information you require along with the caveats at the bottom of the tables.

The first table below provides the number of domestic incidents recorded on iVPD broken by month. The second table provides the number of recorded iVPD domestic incidents where no crime is occurred.

Domestic incidents recorded on iVPD broken by month.

Period 01 January 2023 until 31 March 2023 inclusive.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **January** | **February** | **March** |
| Domestic Incidents | 5265 | 4821 | 5118 |

* The data was extracted using the incident's raised date and extracted from iVPD. Domestic Incidents have been selected.

Recorded domestic incidents on iVPD where no crime occurred broken by month.

Period 01 January 2023 until 31 March 2023 inclusive.

|  | **January** | **February** | **March** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Domestic Incidents - where no crime occurred | 3097 | 2859 | 3034 |

* The data was extracted using the incident's raised date and extracted from iVPD. Domestic Incidents have been selected where no-crime occurred.

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 14/9/2023.

Police Scotland does not retain any information for statistical purposes once a record has been weeded from iVPD.  When a record is weeded, it is removed from the system, and there is no retention of data outside the weeding and retention policy.  Please note, the weeding and retention policy states that if a person is recorded as "no concern / not applicable" then this will only be retained for 6 months.

Please note that these data are collated from the Police Scotland iVPD system, which has an automated weeding and retention policy built on to it. A copy of the retention policy is available on the Police Scotland internet site at the link below.

[Police Scotland - Records Retention Standard Operating Procedure](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/nhobty5i/record-retention-sop.pdf)

## In such cases where no crime or criminality was established, how many listed a male as the perpetrator/accused?

In response to this question, please see the table below, again, please note the caveats at the bottom of the table.

The table provides the number of male perpetrators, where a domestic incident has been recorded where no crime occurred.

Recorded Domestic Incident on iVPD with Nominal Male Perpetrators, where no crime occurred broken by month.

Period 01 January 2023 until 31 March 2023 inclusive.

|  | **January** | **February** | **March** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Domestic Incident Nominal Male Perpetrators | 1464 | 1349 | 1225 |

* The data was extracted using the incident's raised date and extracted from iVPD by selecting Domestic incident nominal perpetrators, where the Gender is 'Male' (and no-crime occurred).

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 14/9/2023.

Police Scotland does not retain any information for statistical purposes once a record has been weeded from iVPD.  When a record is weeded, it is removed from the system, and there is no retention of data outside the weeding and retention policy.  Please note, the weeding and retention policy states that if a person is recorded as "no concern / not applicable" then this will only be retained for 6 months.

Please note that these data are collated from the Police Scotland iVPD system, which has an automated weeding and retention policy built on to it. A copy of the retention policy is available on the Police Scotland internet site at the link below.

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## Out of these cases where a male is listed as the perpetrator/ accused and no crime or criminality was established, could you provide how many times the male was asked VPD questions/ was assessed under the VPD scheme?

In response to your question Police Scotland do not use the terms VPD questions or VPD scheme. When officers attend reports of domestic abuse it is vital to make an accurate and fast assessment of the risks faced by victims.  The Domestic Abuse Questions, or DAQ, is a tried and tested way to understand risk and is based on extensive research of domestic abuse. The DAQ is based around the Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour Based Violence (DASH 2009) Risk Identification, Assessment and Management Model. The DAQ adds an additional three questions to the DASH regarding child protection.

Victims are asked the 27 questions by officers attending domestic incidents.

The perpetrator/accused are not asked these questions.

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.