| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 24-2795Responded to: 06 November 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## How many threats to life warnings have you given since 1st January 2020?

The police have an obligation to take all reasonable steps to protect the lives of persons where information comes to the notice of Police, that there is a specific ‘Threat to Life’ (TTL), risk to personal safety or indication of the commission of a serious crime to an individual. Such incidents are dealt with by the serving of notices deemed appropriate, for example;

Threat to Life Warning Notice – Would be considered for issue to an identified “victim” where it is assessed there is a specific ‘real and immediate’ threat to their safety.

Threat to Life Disruption Notice – A notice is served to an identified individual where it has been assessed there is a ‘real and immediate’ suggestion that the individual is going to be involved in the commission of a serious crime.

Personal Safety Advice Warning Notice – Would be considered where it is assessed there is credible intelligence that a person may be at risk of personal injury.

Crime Disruption Notice – Would be considered for issue to potential perpetrators where there is credible intelligence that persons may be involved in a criminal act.

In response to your request, it is important to ensure that the terminology ‘Osman Warnings’ is interpreted accurately i.e. as a Threat to Life (TTL) warning notice when intelligence exists that there is a viable threat to life.

For absolute clarity on this matter, TTL Warning Notices and Personal Safety Advice Warning Notices are only issued to potential victims who have been fully identified.

Since the 6th of February 2023, the way in which the notices were recorded has changed.

To be of assistance, I can provide the following:

| **Year** | **Threat to Life Warnings** | **Threat to Life Disruption Notice** | **Personal Safety Advice Warning Notice** | **Crime Disruption Notice/ Disruption Interview Notice** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **2020** | 18 | 186 | 161 | - |
| **2021** | 20 | 165 | 152 | - |
| **2022** | 6 | 10 | 149 | 130 |
| **2023** | 5 | 2 | 195 | 203 |

## Of those threats to life notices given since 2020, how many were for under 18s?

## Of the threat to life warnings issues to under 18, how many were threats from other under 18s?

## Did any under 18s receive more than one threat to life warning?

## What is the gender split of the threat to life notices given to under 18s?

I am refusing to confirm or deny whether the information sought exists or is held by Police Scotland in terms of section 18 of the Act.

Section 18 applies where the following two conditions are met:

* It would be contrary to the public interest to reveal whether the information is held
* Ifthe information was held, it would be exempt from disclosure in terms of one or more of the exemptions set out in sections 28 to 35, 38, 39(1) or 41 of the Act

In accordance with the conditions above, Police Scotland can neither confirm nor deny that it holds the information you have requested.

Firstly, sections 38(1)(b) and 38(1)(2A) of the Act may apply insofar as you have requested third party personal data which is exempt from disclosure where it is assessed that disclosure would contravene the data protection principles as defined in the Act.

In addition, section 35(1)(a)&(b) and 39(1) of the Act would also apply.

The primary objectives of such measures are to preserve the lives of all assessed as immediately involved and ensure public safety.

Public Interest

The key test when considering where the balance of public interest lies is to establish whether, in all the circumstances of the request, the public interest in confirming or denying the information is held is not outweighed by maintaining the exemption(s).

Although I consider that public awareness would favour a disclosure as it would contribute to the public debate surrounding the application of these measures, we must ensure that the release of this level of detail is not inadvertently providing potentially harmful information and placing an individual at risk.

I would argue that the integrity of any protective measures would be significantly undermined if we were to confirm the extent of information held, through FOI or otherwise, and any such disclosure would substantially prejudice the ability of Police Scotland with regards the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

This is a matter of principle which applies equally to any member of the public who could find themselves subject to this or other protective measures in a variety of circumstances.

In conclusion, it simply cannot be in the public interest for Police Scotland or any police force to confirm details relating to those individuals, who are currently, or have been in the past, subject to this process.

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 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 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.