| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1787  Responded to: 12 August 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**(1) What reasonable adjustments, if any, are provided, in relation to the management of offenders subject to notification requirements under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, to those suffering with a disability as defined by the Equality Act 2010?**

**(2) For those with neurodiversity issues such as Autism, ADHD, or other mental health issues which could make it more difficult for an individual to either understand the notification requirements or manage their compliance with those notification requirements, what reasonable adjustments are made for them by your force?**

Protecting the public is a top priority for Police Scotland. In Scotland Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), provides a comprehensive response to a complex issue.

Police Scotland work with MAPPA partners to assist offenders suffering with a disability or neurodiverse issue in understanding their notification requirements or any other obligations placed upon them which can include Civil and Criminal Orders, License Conditions etc. This assistance is determined on a case-by-case basis and will be managed according to the individual needs of the offender.

Since 2007, all Registered Sex Offenders (RSOs) in Scotland have been subject to management through MAPPA. This was introduced by sections 10 & 11 of the [Management of Offenders etc. (Scotland) Act 2005 (legislation.gov.uk)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2005/14/contents)

The key agencies involved in MAPPA are referred to as the ‘Responsible Authorities’. They include:

• Police Scotland

• Local Authority

• Scottish Prison Service, and

• Health Board (for Restricted Patients)

Police Scotland works in partnership with the other Responsible Authorities to ensure that all Registered Sex Offenders are robustly managed within the community and provided any relevant support. While we can never eliminate risk entirely, we want to reassure communities that all reasonable steps are being taken to protect them.

As a Responsible Authority, Police Scotland provide effective and efficient management of RSO’s and other risk of serious harm offenders. This is achieved through each of Police Scotland’s 13 local policing divisions having dedicated Sex Offender Policing Units.

These specialist officers work in partnership with the other Responsible Authorities and colleagues to manage and reduce the risk posed by such offenders.

Our Specialist Crime Division, National Sex Offender Policing Unit, provides support to the local policing divisional units and is responsible for governance, audit and compliance. This is in respect of all areas of Police Scotland sex offender policing business.

Local Authority involvement is provided by Criminal Justice and Children and Families Social Work and housing departments. They can extend to encompass a broad range of services depending on the individual circumstances of offenders.

Scottish Prison Service is responsible for the management of RSOs while they are in custody. They contribute to inform risk assessment and risk management planning for offenders being released into the community following any period in custody.

Health Boards involvement as a Responsible Authority is specific to individuals who are defined as 'Restricted Patients'. These are predominantly individuals who are subject to detention in a hospital setting. Health Boards are however also required to share information and assist in the arrangements for any other offender. This is where health information and expertise is relevant. For this purpose, they are defined as a 'Duty to Cooperate' agency.

A number of other 'Duty to Co-operate' agencies are identified through legislation.

They are required to co-operate and share information with the Responsible Authorities in respect of the management of MAPPA offenders.

This is intended to ensure all available information is gathered, shared and used to build as complete a 'picture' as possible for each offender.

This allows for a better identification of any risks they may present and implementation of appropriate measures to mitigate these risks.

Further information about MAPPA can be found locally on each local authority website and nationally on the Scottish Government website.

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.