| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 24-3121Responded to: 09 January 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act (Scotland) 2002 to request the following information from Police Scotland. Please may you provide me with:**

**The total number of cases of threats/extortion (SGJD crime code 7/000) recorded by Police Scotland from 1st January 2014 to 30th November 2024**

*Please note caveats below the tables.*

*Table 1: Recorded Threats and Extortion Crimes – 1st January 2014 – 30th November 2024*

| **Calendar Year** | **Recorded offences** |
| --- | --- |
| 2014 | 253 |
| 2015 | 227 |
| 2016 | 378 |
| 2017 | 347 |
| 2018 | 372 |
| 2019 | 359 |
| 2020 | 733 |
| 2021 | 1,333 |
| 2022 | 1,776 |
| 2023 | 2,570 |
| 2024 | 1,626 |

*All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information.
Data was extracted from Police Scotland systems and are correct as at 24/12/2024.
Data was extracted using the crime's raised date and SGJD code 100700 - Threats and Extortion.*

**The total number of cases of threats/extortion (Home Office Crime Code 7/000) recorded by Police Scotland from 1st January 2014 to 30th November 2024, filtered by the keyword search ‘sextortion’**

I must stress that Police Scotland do not consider keyword searches for specific words/ phrases to be an accurate means of analysis.

There may have been crimes of relevance to your request which do not include the specific word/ phrase that you have listed.

Similarly, spelling errors can skew the results of any analysis based on the presence of keywords.

It would however be nigh on impossible to come up with a list of comprehensive search terms - hence why we would not recommend the approach.

Although the phrase appears in the MO of a crime report, it cannot be assumed on that basis that the crime was directly related to the subject matter as per the context of your request.

For the reasons above, we would therefore take the view that the data below does not accurately reflect the prevalence of sextortion.

*Table 2: Recorded Crime Data where ‘sextortion’ noted in crime MO field – 1st January 2014 – 30th November 2024*

| **Calendar Year** | **Sextortion noted in MO field** |
| --- | --- |
| 2014 | 0 |
| 2015 | 0 |
| 2016 | 0 |
| 2017 | 0 |
| 2018 | 0 |
| 2019 | 0 |
| 2020 | 0 |
| 2021 | 4 |
| 2022 | 5 |
| 2023 | 10 |
| 2024 | 4 |

*All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information.
Data was extracted from Police Scotland systems and are correct as at 23/12/2024
Recorded Crimes are extracted using the Date Raised.
Keyword searches of the crime mo\_text within National UNIFI were carried out for 'SEXTORTION'.*

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.