

11/03/2019

Margaret Mitchell MSP
C/O Justice Committee Clerks
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP



John McKenzie
Chief Superintendent
Safer Communities

Scottish Crime Campus
Craignethan Drive
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Dear Ms Mitchell,

I am writing with reference to the request for additional information dated 4 March 2019, following the evidence session I attended on 26 February 2019 with the Justice Committee, to discuss the Prosecution of Elder Abuse.

As you are aware, the request sought the following information, which I will address in turn:

- ***Whether Police Scotland could produce any data on the percentage of abuse cases reported to police, which then results in a file being sent to the COPFS.***

Due to the fact there is currently no legal definition of the term 'Elder Abuse' in Scotland, the matter of collating associated statistics becomes more complex, which I highlighted during the evidence session (OR Col 32).

I have now sought advice from the Police Scotland Analysis and Performance Unit and can confirm that at this time, we are unable to provide you with the data requested.

By way of explanation, although Police Scotland is moving towards the implementation of one system across the country, we currently operate with a number of different crime recording systems. Whilst there are significant high-level similarities between the systems, they are not designed to enable the retrieval of highly specific information, on a national basis. It is therefore not currently possible to search our records based upon the age of the victim, as there are no relevant markers which allow the automatic retrieval of this level of information.

The only way to provide you with this information in an accurate and consistent manner would be to individually examine each crime report created on the systems, to determine the age of the victim. As you would expect this would be an exceptionally resource intensive exercise.

OFFICIAL: NONE

- ***Police Scotland was going to come back on the issue of the response to the FOI request from Action on Elder Abuse in 2016 (See Cols 46 – 47 on the OR).***

During the evidence session, the Freedom of Information (FOI) request previously submitted by Action on Elder Abuse in 2016 was discussed.

I have now had the opportunity to review this FOI request, which sought information and statistics relating to cases involving victims aged 65 years of age and over however Police Scotland were unable to provide the data requested.

I can confirm that Police Scotland is still unable to provide the data requested, due to the reasons outlined above.

I trust that this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

John McKenzie
Chief Superintendent

OFFICIAL: NONE