

The data has been extracted from the COPFS case management system. This is a live operational database. It is designed to meet business needs in the processing of criminal cases, rather than for statistical analysis, and the information within it is structured accordingly. The data was extracted in June 2014, and reflects the position at that date.

Reports to the Procurator Fiscal can include one or more persons. Each person within a report can be reported for one or more charges. Charges can include an aggravation of domestic abuse where appropriate.

COPFS and the Police Service of Scotland have a wide definition of crimes identified as domestic abuse, which is set out in the published Joint Protocol, "In Partnership, Challenging Domestic Abuse". The definition set out in the protocol is "any form of physical, sexual or mental and emotional abuse which might amount to criminal conduct and which takes place within the context of relationship. The relationship will be between partners (married, cohabiting, civil partnerships or otherwise) or ex-partners. The abuse can be committed in the home or elsewhere". The protocol can be found at the following link.

http://www.copfs.gov.uk/images/Documents/Prosecution_Policy_Guidance/Protocols_and_Memorandum_of_Understanding/Joint%20Domestic%20Abuse%20Protocol%20-%20Oct%202013.pdf

The figures provided here are for all charges (rather than reports, or people) reported to COPFS in 2013-14, which had an aggravation of domestic abuse as at June 2014. Some charges reported with a domestic abuse aggravation may have had the aggravation removed by the Procurator Fiscal during the processing of the case, if it was not appropriate. Conversely, a domestic abuse aggravation may have been added to charges that were not originally reported with one, if appropriate.

The figures for Court and Direct Measures include charges that were not separately actioned, but where action was taken in relation to other charges reported in the case, for example, where it was considered that an alternative charge was more appropriate or because details of the charge were included within the body of another charge for evidential reasons.

In the majority of cases where no action was taken the reason given for that is insufficient evidence.

Charges have been classified according to the crime classification system used by the Scottish Government. The table below gives more information on what is included in the categories.

Crimes	
Homicide	Comprises murder and culpable homicide (including the statutory crimes of causing death by dangerous or careless driving or causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs, or when driving illegally).
Serious assault and attempted murder	-
Robbery	Includes offences involving intent to rob.
Other violence	Includes threats, extortion and cruel and unnatural treatment of children.
Rape and attempted rape	-
Sexual assault	Includes: Contact sexual assault (13-15 yr old or adult 16+), Other sexually coercive conduct (adult 16+), Sexual offences against children under 13, Sexual activity with children aged 13-15, Other sexual offences involving children aged 13-15, Lewd and libidinous practices
Offences associated with prostitution	Includes: Soliciting services of person engaged in prostitution, Brothel keeping, Immoral traffic, and Procuration
Other sexual crimes	Includes: Incest, Unnatural Crimes, Public indecency, Sexual exposure, and other sexual offences
Housebreaking	Includes business as well as domestic premises.
Theft of a motor vehicle	-
Other theft	Includes theft of pedal cycles.

Crimes	
Fraud	Includes statutory fraud, except social security benefit fraud.
Other dishonesty	Includes forgery, reset and embezzlement.
Fire-raising	-
Vandalism	Includes malicious mischief, vandalism and reckless conduct with firearms.
Crimes against public justice	Includes perjury, contempt of court, bail offences and failing to appear at court.
Handling an offensive weapon	Comprises carrying offensive weapons including articles with a point or blade, restriction of offensive weapons legislation.
Other crime	Includes conspiracy and explosives offences.
Common assault	Also sometimes termed petty assault or minor assault.
Breach of the peace, etc.	Includes breach of the peace, threatening or abusive behaviour, stalking, and offensive behaviour at football and threatening communications (Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications Act 2012)
Drunkenness	Includes offences of being drunk and incapable, being drunk in charge of a child, being disorderly on (or in attempting to enter) licensed premises and being drunk inside (or in attempting to enter) a sports ground.
Other offences	Includes offences against local legislation, Revenue and Excise Acts, Licensing Acts, Wireless Telegraphy Acts / Communication Acts.

Crimes	
Dangerous and careless driving	-