

VIA STATISTICS 2007-2008

You may be interested in some statistics about the work of the Victim Information and Advice service. The information that follows provides details of:-

- numbers of cases and service users
- types of case referrals
- performance in relation to communicating bail information

CASES AND SERVICE USERS

The Victim Information and Advice (VIA) service was launched in 2002, after an earlier service (the Victim Liaison Office) was piloted in Aberdeen and Hamilton in 2000-01.

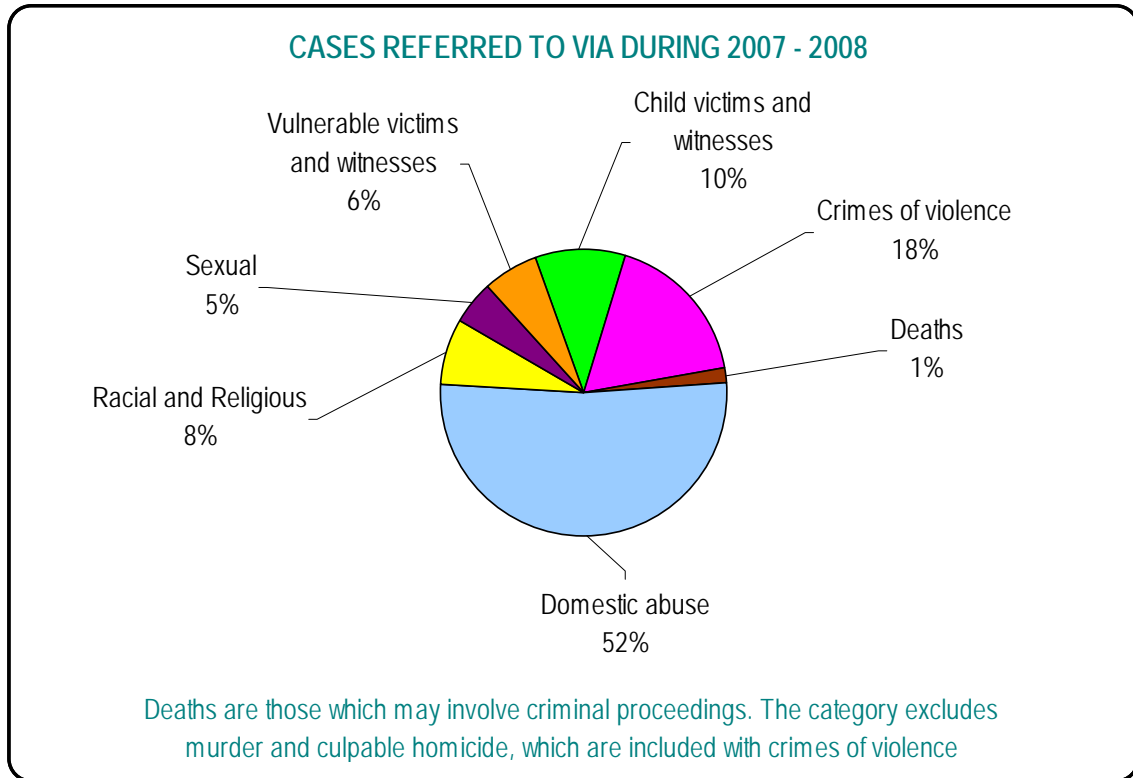
VIA services were established throughout Scotland between 2002 and December 2004. Since the launch, the numbers of cases handled and people receiving the service have almost quadrupled.

Despite the number of referrals in 2007-2008 dropping back to 2005-2006 levels, the number of service users has continued to increase.

YEAR	CASES	SERVICE USERS
2002-2003	6,581	10,356
2003-2004	11,632	18,447
2004-2005	18,334	27,613
2005-2006	23,698	35,201
2006-2007	25,334	37,490
2007-2008	23,696	39,300

CASE REFERRALS

The chart below shows the breakdown of VIA cases in 2007-2008, reflecting VIA Referral Categories (for more information, see [Who does VIA help?](#))



Domestic abuse cases make up over 50% of the VIA caseload, with crimes of violence (excluding domestic abuse) accounting for another 18%.

COMMUNICATING BAIL INFORMATION

It is a VIA target to communicate court bail decisions within 24 hours to 90% of victims in cases where the accused has appeared from custody.

The table below shows how VIA did against this target in 2007-2008.

Bail condition type	Number of cases	Target met	% of cases target met
Standard	3,848	3,707	96
Special	13,110	12,993	99

Standard bail conditions are that the accused should:-

- attend their trial or earlier court appearance
- not commit an offence while on bail
- not interfere with witnesses
- not obstruct the course of justice (for example, by disappearing)
- not behave in a manner which causes, or is likely to cause, alarm or distress to witnesses (introduced December 10, 2007)

Special bail conditions place additional requirements on the accused – for example, limiting where they can live, or preventing them going near a person, their family or home.