



CROWN OFFICE
& PROCURATOR
FISCAL SERVICE

SCOTLAND'S PROSECUTION SERVICE

COPFS statistics on cases in which no action was taken in the last 5 years (2017-2022)

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There will always be a percentage of cases reported to Procurators Fiscal which result in no action being taken. Procurators Fiscal may decide not to take proceedings for a number of reasons, including lack of admissible evidence, mitigating circumstances, lack of jurisdiction over the offence, the fact that the suspected offence is not a crime or the fact that a civil remedy is more appropriate than criminal proceedings.

Total criminal cases reported

Cases in which no action was taken: Last 5 Years	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Total criminal cases reported	177,801	170,575	169,894	159,195	147,637

Total cases in which No Action was taken

Cases in which no action was taken: Last 5 Years	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Total No Action	20,526	17,705	15,999	15,897	13,982

Number of cases in which no action was taken, by reason

Cases in which no action was taken: Last 5 Years	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Insufficient admissible evidence	9,934	6,857	5,576	5,226	4,445
Further action disproportionate	3,740	3,541	3,675	4,004	3,325
Civil remedy more appropriate	404	632	414	278	384
Mitigating circumstances	664	846	586	570	368
Delay by Police or other reporting agency	1,178	1,724	1,275	1,252	1,083
Delay by PF	33	23	24	14	10
Timebarred on receipt	508	769	889	840	726
Not a crime	669	410	559	481	472
No jurisdiction	16	17	14	10	20
Age of offence	1,348	674	934	946	742
Other specified reasons	2,032	2,212	2,053	2,276	2,407

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Total criminal cases reported	177,801	170,575	169,894	159,195	147,637

Cases where No Action was taken as a percentage of all criminal cases reported

Cases in which no action was taken: Last 5 Years	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Total No Action as percentage	11.5%	10.4%	9.4%	10.0%	9.4%

Cases where No Action was taken as a percentage of all criminal cases reported, by reason

Cases in which no action was taken: Last 5 Years	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Insufficient admissible evidence	5.6%	4.0%	3.3%	3.3%	3.0%
Further action disproportionate	2.1%	2.1%	2.2%	2.5%	2.2%
Civil remedy more appropriate	0.2%	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%
Mitigating circumstances	0.4%	0.5%	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%
Delay by Police or other reporting agency	0.7%	1.0%	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%
Delay by PF	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Timebarred on receipt	0.3%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
Not a crime	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
No jurisdiction	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Age of offence	0.8%	0.4%	0.5%	0.6%	0.5%
Other specified reasons	1.1%	1.3%	1.2%	1.4%	1.6%