



CROWN OFFICE
& PROCURATOR
FISCAL SERVICE

SCOTLAND'S PROSECUTION SERVICE

COPFS statistics on cases in which no action was taken in the last 5 years (2016-2021)

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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	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Total criminal cases reported	195,731	177,801	170,575	169,894	159,195

Total cases in which No Action was taken

Cases in which no action was taken: Last 5 Years	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Total No Action	20,792	20,526	17,705	15,999	15,930

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

Cases in which no action was taken: Last 5 Years	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Insufficient admissible evidence	8,831	9,934	6,857	5,576	5,253
Further action disproportionate	5,543	3,740	3,541	3,675	4,009
Civil remedy more appropriate	415	404	632	414	277
Mitigating circumstances	745	664	846	586	569
Delay by Police or other reporting agency	1,514	1,178	1,724	1,275	1,250
Delay by PF	32	33	23	24	33
Timebarred on receipt	502	508	769	889	840
Not a crime	831	669	410	559	481
No jurisdiction	27	16	17	14	10
Age of offence	612	1,348	674	934	942
Other specified reasons	1,740	2,032	2,212	2,053	2,266

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

Cases in which no action was taken: Last 5 Years	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Total No Action as percentage	10.6%	11.5%	10.4%	9.4%	10.0%

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	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Insufficient admissible evidence	4.5%	5.6%	4.0%	3.3%	3.3%
Further action disproportionate	2.8%	2.1%	2.1%	2.2%	2.5%
Civil remedy more appropriate	0.2%	0.2%	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%
Mitigating circumstances	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	0.3%	0.4%
Delay by Police or other reporting agency	0.8%	0.7%	1.0%	0.8%	0.8%
Delay by PF	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Timebarred on receipt	0.3%	0.3%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
Not a crime	0.4%	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%
No jurisdiction	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Age of offence	0.3%	0.8%	0.4%	0.5%	0.6%
Other specified reasons	0.9%	1.1%	1.3%	1.2%	1.4%
Insufficient admissible evidence	0.3%	0.3%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%