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FISCAL SERVICE

SCOTLAND'S PROSECUTION SERVICE

## COPFS statistics on cases in which no action was taken in the last 5 years (2018-2023)

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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

<b>Cases in which no action was taken: Last 5 Years</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>
Total criminal cases reported	170,575	169,894	159,184	148,925	144,957

### Total cases in which No Action was taken

<b>Cases in which no action was taken: Last 5 Years</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>
Total No Action	17,705	15,999	15,897	13,982	13,042

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

<b>Cases in which no action was taken: Last 5 Years</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>
Insufficient admissible evidence	6,857	5,576	5,226	4,445	4,488
Further action disproportionate	3,541	3,675	4,004	3,325	2,775
Civil remedy more appropriate	632	414	278	384	503
Mitigating circumstances	846	586	570	368	421
Delay by Police or other reporting agency	1,724	1,275	1,252	1,083	818
Delay by PF	23	24	14	10	25
Timebarred on receipt	769	889	840	726	749
Not a crime	410	559	481	472	485
No jurisdiction	17	14	10	20	30
Age of offence	674	934	946	742	544
Other specified reasons	2,212	2,053	2,276	2,407	2,204

## Total criminal cases reported <sup>(1)</sup>

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Total criminal cases reported	170,575	169,894	159,184	148,925	144,957

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

<b>Cases in which no action was taken: Last 5 Years</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>
Total No Action as percentage	10.4%	9.4%	10.0%	9.4%	9.0%

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

<b>Cases in which no action was taken: Last 5 Years</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>
Insufficient admissible evidence	4.0%	3.3%	3.3%	3.0%	3.1%
Further action disproportionate	2.1%	2.2%	2.5%	2.2%	1.9%
Civil remedy more appropriate	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%
Mitigating circumstances	0.5%	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%
Delay by Police or other reporting agency	1.0%	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%	0.6%
Delay by PF	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Timebarred on receipt	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
Not a crime	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
No jurisdiction	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Age of offence	0.4%	0.5%	0.6%	0.5%	0.4%
Other specified reasons	1.3%	1.2%	1.4%	1.6%	1.5%