

[New figures have been released today](#) by Scotland's Chief Statistician on Domestic Abuse Recorded by the Police in Scotland, 2017-18.

These statistics show that “the police recorded 59,541 incidents of domestic abuse in 2017-18, an increase on 1% compared to the previous year. Levels of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland have remained relatively stable since 2011-12, with around 58,000 to 60,000 incidents a year.”

Our response:

“Because we know that domestic abuse for the most part goes underreported, it's the unfortunately reality that Police statistics like these leave more questions than answers. What about those women who have never and may never tell anyone what they are going through, let alone the Police? What response did those who did report get, and where are they now? Are they safer?

There are bigger questions too about data and the cloak of invisibility granted to perpetrators of domestic abuse, where are they in these statistics? Why are we not measuring the number of men involved in perpetrating these crimes and tracking our progress by that figure? None of these questions are answered, not even when we add the data from the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey.

Early in 2019, Scotland's pioneering new Domestic Abuse Law will go into effect, and with that comes hope, challenge and opportunity. Hope that as a country our understanding of domestic abuse moves beyond just physical violence, to recognise that emotional abuse and controlling behaviours are at the core of domestic abuse. Challenge that institutional responses to domestic abuse address the causes of domestic abuse — women's inequality, gender stereotypes and the absence of women from so many of the tables of power. And the opportunity to end domestic abuse through robust accountability for doing the right thing at all levels—communities, local authorities, national institutions such as the NHS and schools, police and courts, and the Scottish Government. It's time to do what our policy *Equally Safe* says on the tin: eradicate domestic abuse and other forms of violence against women.”

– Marsha Scott, Scottish Women's Aid

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