

Supplementary written evidence provided by Police Scotland on the Prostitution (Offences and Support) (Scotland) Bill – 2 February 2026

The following information was provided by Police Scotland on Monday 2 February 2026 in response to a question on the estimate the scale of any costs arising from the bill put to Detective Superintendent Steven Bertram of Police Scotland at the oral evidence session of Wednesday 5 November 2025 ([Official Report 5 Nov 2025](#), cols 10-11).

In response, Police Scotland stated in an email to the Criminal Justice Committee on 2 February 2026-

-----Response-----

Apologies for the delay. Here is the response I have received regards costings for Prostitution (Offences and Support) (Scotland) Bill.

The undernoted is approximate costings based on 3 scenarios which we would potentially encounter when dealing with an incident of off street prostitution. Category A is dealt with local and involves a safe and well check on the female where no criminality is potentially established at that time and no further police action required other than offering support to the female. Category B is based on prostitution being established but contained locally so would be carried out by a local policing division with no requirement for it to be undertaken by a national team and/or specialist resources. Category C is where there are more complexities, and it requires specialist resources.

The figures have estimated as we know Prostitution, along with most VAWG related criminality, is vastly underreported. The figures are based on a 12-month period and the first figure in each scenario is an estimation based on potential number of calls received by Police Scotland and the second figure is based on stats provided from Adult Services Websites offering prostitution services in Scotland for the minimum number of unique individual adverts over a 12 month period.

If you have any questions please let me know.

Category A – Initial call and attendance to ensure safeguarding.

- Anywhere between £166,440 and £400,672

Category B – Local Investigation required

- Anywhere between £9,746,595 and £23,863,708

Category C – Full Investigation requiring SIO structure and specialist resources

- Anywhere between £133,296,540 and £321,286,224

Kind regards,
Paul Thomson
Inspector
Parliament and Government Liaison
Police Scotland