



EQUALITY IN FIFE

Interim Report - Fife Centre for Equalities

JANUARY 2024

Overview

About this report

The aim of the interim update is to highlight changes in **demographics and linked population patterns**, at yearly intervals to help plan for service provision.

The information below assist organisations of any sector in their commitment to promoting equality of opportunity and fulfilling their responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010, which legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and in wider society, and the Fairer Scotland Duty 2018, for public sector bodies and partners to consider how they can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage and poverty.

Please note this is an **interim** report collating statistics from sources of information published in the past year, but in several aspect is still less precise than the Census 2011 for specific protected characteristics.

Data from the Scottish Census 2022 is planned for release in Summer 2024 and will provide the best source of information at a local authority and locality level about people with protected characteristics living, working and studying in Fife.

Who does it concern?

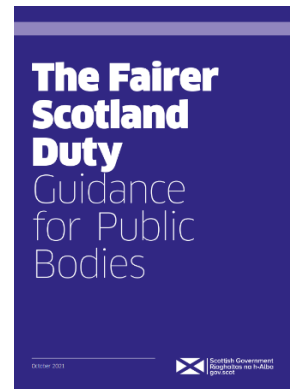
Public, private or voluntary organisations receiving public funding and/or carrying out public functions¹ are further subject to the general equality duty and must have **due regard** to the need to:

- **Eliminate unlawful discrimination**, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- **Advance equality of opportunity** between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- **Foster good relations** between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

'Due regard' involves a range of actions such as:

- Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.

¹ Where a private or voluntary organisation provides a 'public function' it is then subject to the general equality duty. Public functions are carried out on behalf of the State are not similar in kind to services that could be performed by private people or by private or voluntary organisations. Examples include when a private company manages a prison or when a voluntary organisation takes on responsibilities for child protection. Further duties towards equality exist for certain public bodies (see Appendix 2).



- Taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.
- Encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

The [protected characteristics](#) or 'equality groups'² that are referred to are:

- **Age**
- **Disability**
- **Gender reassignment**
- **Marriage and civil partnership**
- **Pregnancy and maternity**
- **Race**
- **Religion and belief**
- **Sex**
- **Sexual orientation.**

The Fairer Scotland Duty, Part 1 of the Equality Act 2010 came into force in Scotland, April 2018. This places a legal responsibility on particular public bodies in Scotland to actively consider ('pay due regard' to) how they can **reduce inequalities of outcome** caused by **socio-economic disadvantage**, when making strategic decisions.

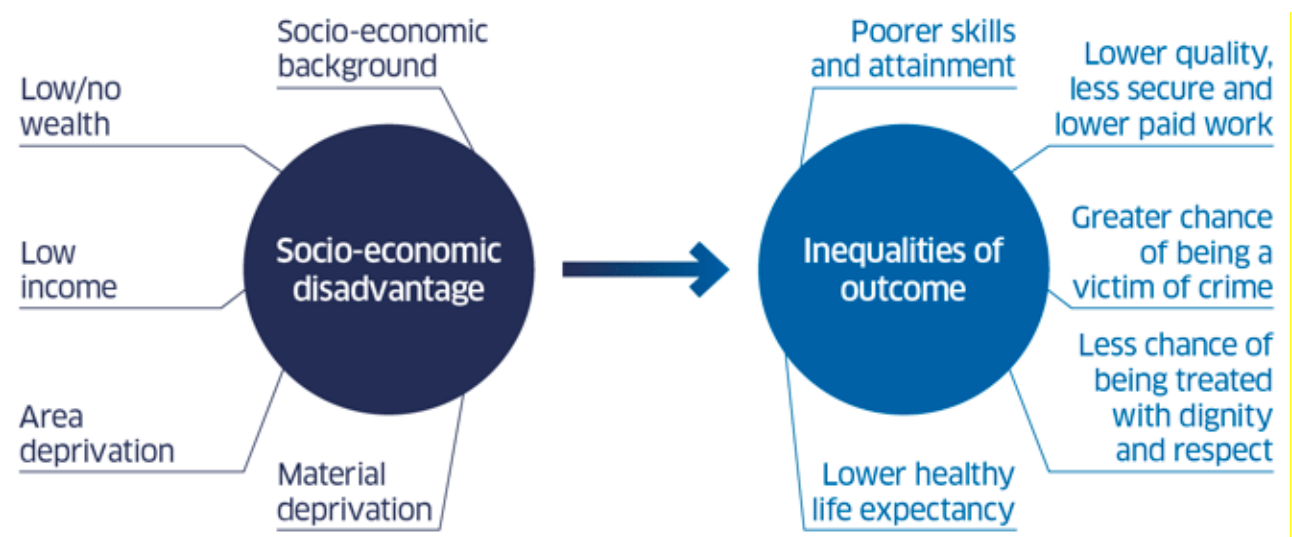


Figure 1 Socio-economic disadvantage and inequalities of outcome

Source: [Scottish Government \(27 Mar 2018\) - Fairer Scotland Duty: interim guidance](#)

The Fairer Scotland Duty does not cover decisions made before 1 April 2018 and does not override other considerations such as equality or best value. However, the new Duty gives an opportunity to do things differently and to put **tackling inequality genuinely at the heart of key decision-making**, with the **key requirement in each case** for public bodies:

- to actively consider how they could reduce inequalities of outcome in any major strategic decision they make; and
- to publish a written assessment, showing how they've done this.

² An equality group is a group of individuals who share the same protected characteristics.

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1. Key points / demographics facts

- The population of Fife is expected to continue decreasing over the coming years and the 2022 number is already lower the projected population of 371,430 in 2028.ⁱⁱ
- Highest out-migration in Fife was, as before, in the 20–24-year-olds age group (-1200 people), but this number has doubled compared to the 2019-2020 numbers (-637).ⁱⁱ
- Amongst the 5,112 primary pupils with ASN in 2022, the largest proportion of pupils needed support because of Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulty (22.8%) and English as an Additional Language (20.8%).^{iv}
- In September 2023 the 18–25 year old's group had the highest percentage of out-of-work claimants in Fife (5.2%), followed by the 18-24 year old's group at 4.8%, and an average for working age adults of 3.3%. This pattern is also evident at national and UK level.^{viii}
- 15,100 people in Fife were economically inactive due to disability or long-term illness in 2022-2023, which is 32% of the Fife working age population, and increase of 0.7% from the year before but to the Scottish level of 31.9%.^{viii}
- Over a 10-year period there have been a total of 20 transgender aggravated crime charges reported in Fife, and only 4 reported during the 2022/23 financial year period.^{xi}
- In 2022 there were a total of 1,817 marriages and 19 Civil Partnerships registered in Fife. Since June 2021 mixed-sex couples have been able to form a civil partnership, which resulted in considerable increase of registrations in Fife in 2021. The 33 registered civil partnerships in 2021 reflected this new legislation as 32 out of the 33 registrations were mixed sex.ⁱⁱ
- With the number of births falling over the last 10 years most mothers used to be in the 25 to 29 years old age group but slowly shifted to the 30–34 years old age group over the past 5 years. The births of teenage mothers have drastically reduced from 385 births in 1992, 332 births in 2002, 270 births in 2012 down to 96 births in 2022.^{xii}
- The nationality of the Fife population has also been estimated by the National Records of Scotland for the period July 2020 and June 2021 and shows that 6.6% of Fifer's did not have UK nationality. This is lower than the Scottish average where estimated 7.4% of people living in Scotland are not UK nationals. According to the data for Fife estimated 342,000 people were UK, 11,000 were European Union nationals, 10,000 Asian nationals and around 4,000 nationals from the rest of the world.^{xv}
- The Pupil Census 2022 reveals that there have been 43,232 pupils from white UK background (87.1%) and 5,680 pupils from minority ethnic groups (11.4%). The number of not disclosed/unknown pupil ethnicity has stayed at a similar level to the previous year and was 709 in 2022, equalling to 1,4% of all the pupils.^{iv}



- The reported charges of religiously aggravated crime in Fife have been typically low. The highest reported number of 29 was in the financial year 2017/18 and has been fairly consistent over the last three years with 12 reported in 2022/23.^{xi}
- The population in Fife was represented by 48.5% male and 51.5% female residents in 2022ⁱ and this proportion is expected to stay the same when looking into the projections for 2028.ⁱⁱ
- There is still £66.10 difference between the gross weekly earning of male versus female full-time workers in Fife in 2022. Average hourly pay for full-time males being £15.80 and £15.34 for full-time females. The full-time average hourly pay for males in Fife is considerably lower than the Scottish (£16.91) and UK (£16.97) average. Females in full-time employment in Fife are far lower paid per hour than the Scottish female average (£16.29) but just under the UK (£15.49) average.^{viii}
- The number of reported charges of sexual orientation aggravated hate crime in Fife vary over the last 10 years, with higher figures recorded in the later years. For 2022/23 there were 76 cases, a considerable decrease from the 95 cases reported in 2021/22.^{xi}
- The SEIC report showed that in May 2023, from the five local authorities working together in the collaborative, Fife had the highest level of children and young people living in poverty (22.1%) and living in SIMD Quintile 1 (22%) and also the highest free school meals rate at 20.6%.ⁱⁱⁱ



2. Age and Population



The population of Fife in 2022 was 370400, a decrease of 1.2% from the previous year.ⁱ The population of Fife is expected to continue decreasing over the coming years and the 2022 number is already lower the projected population of 371,430 in 2028.ⁱⁱ

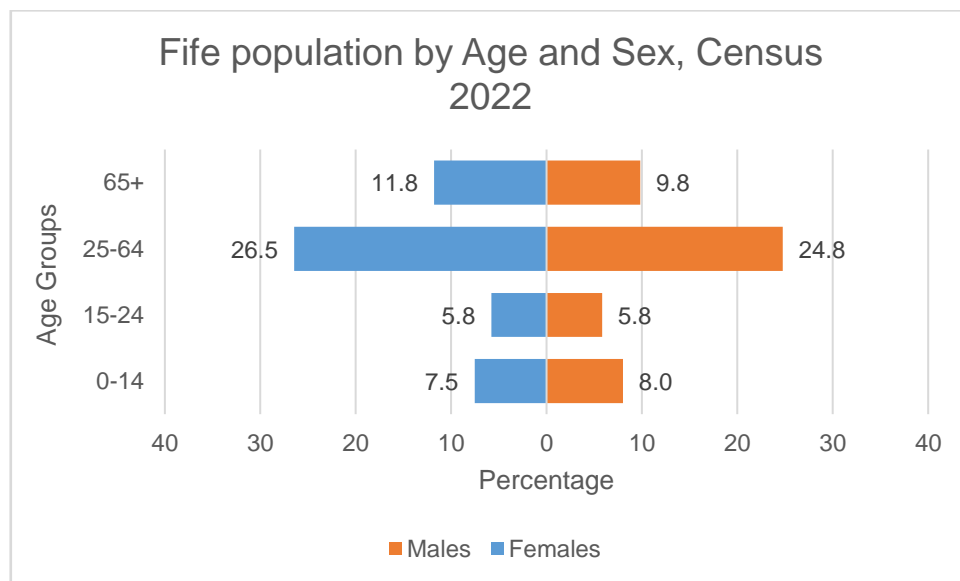
The number of births in Fife has also been decreasing in the last decade, with 2,990 births in 2022. The birth of male babies has consistently stayed higher than the birth of female babies.ⁱⁱ

The migration in Fife for 2020-2021 was +1,760 people with 13,320 people coming in Fife and 11,560 leaving Fife.ⁱⁱ

The highest in-migration in 2020-2021 in Fife was once again in the 15–19-year-olds age group (+746 people).ⁱⁱ

The highest out-migration in Fife was, as before, in the 20–24-year-olds age group (-1200 people), but this number has doubled compared to the 2019-2020 numbers (-637).ⁱⁱ

The population in Fife broken down by sex and age groups, according to the first released Census 2022 information, can be seen in Graph 1.ⁱ



Graph 1. [Fife Population by Age and Sex, Census, 2022](#)ⁱ

3. Children and young people



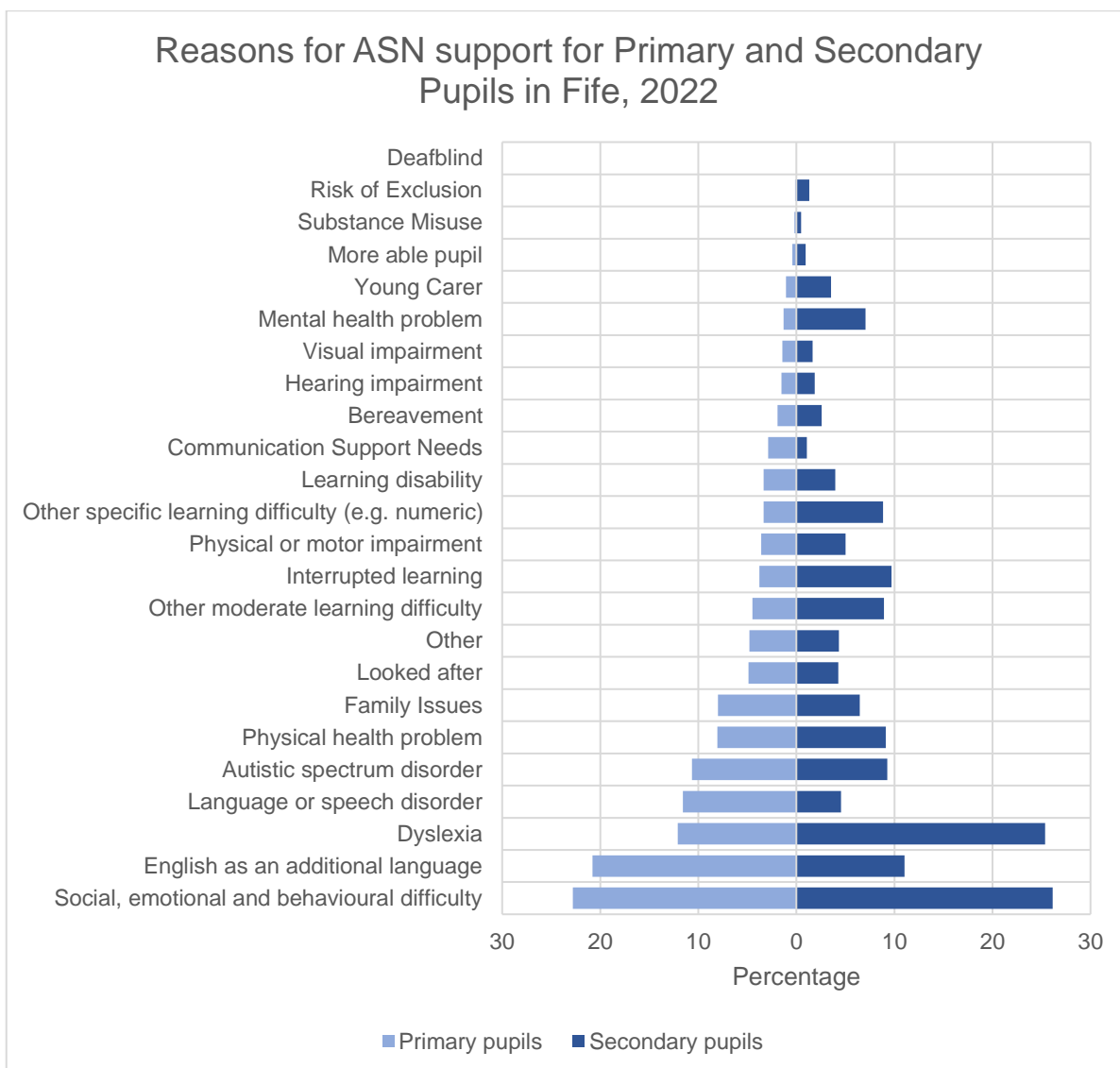
There were 63,680 people aged 0–15-year-old in 2021, which was 17% of the population in Fife at the time. Even though this was higher than the Scottish 16.6% the numbers and percentage of this age group keep on decreasing every year and the projected Fife population in this group for in 2028 is 58,610.ⁱⁱ

The SEIC (South-East Improvement Collaborative) Regional Improvement Plan August



2023-24 indicates that in May 2023 there were 6,452 Early Learning Centre registrations, 27,367 primary pupils and 22,095 secondary pupils in Fife.ⁱⁱⁱ

Information from the latest Pupil Census shows that in 2022 18.7% of the primary pupils and 41.5% of the secondary pupils in Fife were known to have an Additional Support Need (ASN).^{iv} (Graph 2.)



Graph 2. [Reason for support for Primary and Secondary Pupils with Additional Support Needs in Fife, 2022](#)^{iv}

The Fife Council Education and children’s services Sub-Committee published their Directorate Improvement Plan – Priorities 2021-2023 in May 2021. In it they spoke about the evidence of the negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on our children and young people and shared that “Mental health and emotional wellbeing are a significant cause for concern.”^v

Amongst the 5,112 primary pupils with ASN in 2022, the largest proportion of pupils needed support because of Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulty (22.8%) and English as an Additional Language (20.8%). In Fife’s primary schools 6.1% of pupils have English as an additional language at various proficiency levels (new to English to fluent), with 25.9% of those being new to English.^{iv}



Further reasons for support for our primary pupils with ASN include Dyslexia (12.1%), Language or Speech Disorder (11.6%), Autistic Spectrum Disorder (10.6%) and Family issues (8%).^{iv}

For the 9,164 secondary pupils with ASN in 2022 the largest proportion of support was needed because of Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulty (26.1%) and Dyslexia (25.4%), while 11% required the support as they had English as an Additional Language.^{iv}

According to SEIC 3.8% of Fife’s school cohort’s pupils have English as an additional language. This was similar to the rest of the local authorities, with only City of Edinburgh Council having considerably higher rate of 15.7%.ⁱⁱⁱ

The Scottish Social Work Statistics^{vi} show that in July 2022 0.8% of the 0-17 population in Fife^{vii} were looked after children. While SEIC shows that there were 817 Looked-After Children and Young People in May 2023.ⁱⁱⁱ

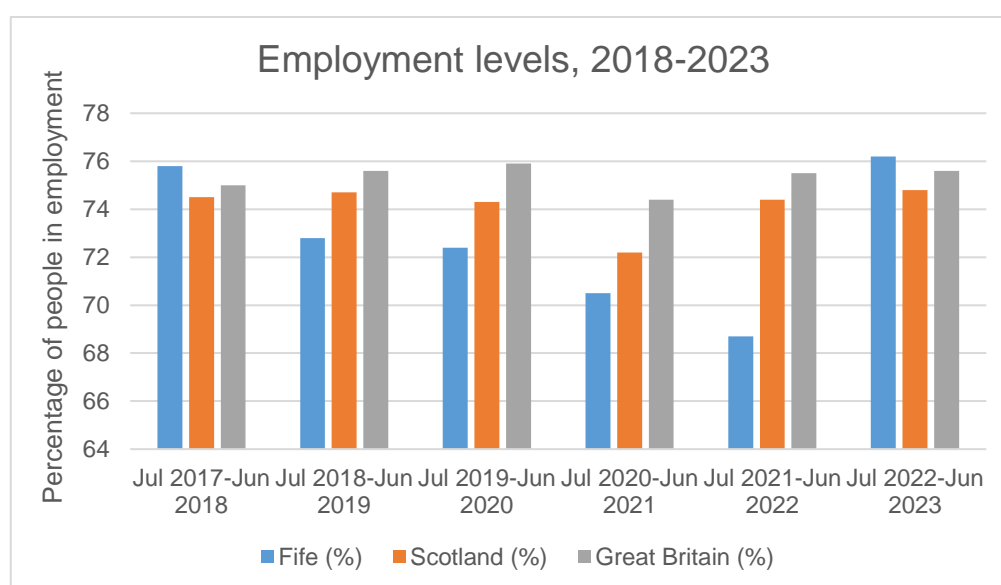
The 2022 Social Work Statistics reveal that 52% of the looked after children were male and 48% female. It also points that 21% were under 5 years of age, 7% were 16 years or over and 1% were minority ethnic children. None of the children were known to have disability. From all of the looked after Young People eligible for after care service 25% received such.^{vi}

4. Working age adults



Fife had 231,635 people in the Working Adults age group in 2021 – this was 61.8% of the Fife population and lower than the Scottish average for this age group (63.8%.) The future projection is that the numbers are going to fall to 222,731 working age adults in Fife in 2028.ⁱⁱ

For the period July 2022- June 2023 76.2% of the population in Fife was in employment. The Scottish average has increased with 0.4% (to 74.8%) and the UK average has increased with 0.1% (to 75.6%) compared to the previous year. Fife’s population in employment has increased by 7.5% than its previous level not only closing the gap with the national and local employment levels, but even overtaking them.^{viii} (Graph 3)



Graph 3. [Employment levels in Fife 2018-2023 compared to Scottish and UK levels.](#)^{viii}

From all economically inactive individuals in Fife in 2022-2023 13.1% expressed they would like to have a job. This has fallen significantly by 6.1% compared to the previous year's (19.2%). The Scottish and UK levels have also fallen, but this is with only 1.1% and 0.9% respectively.^{viii}

The job density in Fife (0.65) is considerably lower than the Scottish average (0.81), meaning that there were less available job opportunities per working age adult in Fife in 2021, than there were on average in Scotland.^{viii}

The percentage of working age adults claiming benefits (Universal Credit or Job seekers Allowance) in Fife was 3.3% of the working age population. In our local authority males are more likely to be the claimants with 4.0% of males and 2.6% of females being recorded as claimants in September 2023. For comparison in Scotland 3.7% of males and 2.4% of females were claimants, while in Great Britain the levels were 4.2% of males and 3.2% of females. The local and national levels have stayed pretty similar to the levels from the previous year.^{viii}

In September 2023 the 18–25 year old's group had the highest percentage of out-of-work claimants in Fife (5.2%), followed by the 18-24 year old's group at 4.8%, and an average for working age adults of 3.3%. This pattern is also evident at national and UK level.^{viii}

5. Older People



In 2021 there were 79,415 older people in Fife and the proportion of this age group continues to increase locally and nationally. The 21.2 % representation in Fife of this group is higher than the 19.6% Scottish average. There is an expectation of significant increase in the population in this age group and projected 90,089 older people in Fife in 2028.ⁱⁱ

In Fife 10.8% of the economically inactive working age adults for the period 2022-2023 were retired. This is considerably lower than the Scottish (14.0%) and UK levels (13.1%).^{viii}

6. Disability



The Scottish Household survey 2019 shows that Fife has significantly higher percentage of households with members with long-term physical or mental health condition (34%) than the Scottish average (24%) and this tendency has been the case for the last three years.^{ix}

15,100 people in Fife were economically inactive due to long-term illness in 2022-2023, which is 32% of the Fife working age population, and increase of 0.7% from the year before. This level is similar to the Scottish 31.9% but considerably higher than the UK average 26.6%.^{viii}

In February 2023 there were 5568 Disability Living Allowance payments in Fife with 46% of the claimants being male and 54% being female. Considering the age groups of the claimants 4% were Children and Young People, 31% were Working Age Adults and 65%



were Adults Over State Pension Age.^x

The reported charges of disability aggravated crime in Fife have been increasing over the last three years with 40 charges reported in 2022/23 financial year, a substantial increase compared to the 27 charges reported in 2021/22.^{xi}

7. Gender reassignment



The reporting of charges of transgender aggravated crime has been extremely low in Fife, similar to all other local authorities in Scotland.

Over a 10-year period there have been a total of 20 transgender aggravated crime charges reported in Fife, and only 4 reported during the 2022/23 financial year period.^{xi}

8. Marriage and Civil partnership



The Scottish Household Survey 2019 shows that the breakdown of the marital status of adults in Fife for the last decade has stayed quite consistent. Majority of the adults were married or in a civil partnership (47%) followed by the single/never married/never been in civil partnership group (33%). The survey indicated that 12% of adults were divorced/separated and 8% were widowed/bereaved civil partner. There is no significant difference in the data from our local area and the national averages.^{ix}

In 2022 there were a total of 1,817 marriages and 19 Civil Partnerships registered in Fife. Since June 2021 mixed-sex couples have been able to form a civil partnership, which resulted in considerable increase of registrations in Fife in 2021. The 33 registered civil partnerships in 2021 reflected this new legislation as 32 out of the 33 registrations were mixed sex.ⁱⁱ

In 2022 the number of civil partnerships has stayed high with 3 of those being same-sex and the other 16 being mixed-sex couples.ⁱⁱ

9. Pregnancy and maternity



Over the last 30 years we have observed a considerable change in the age at which mothers in Fife give birth with an increasing trend of women giving birth at an older age.^{xii} (Graph 4)

With the number of births falling over the last 10 years most mothers used to be in the 25 to 29 years old age group but slowly shifted to the 30–34 years old age group over the past 5 years. The births of teenage mothers have drastically reduced from 385 births in 1992, 332 births in 2002, 270 births in 2012 down to 96 births in 2022.^{xii}

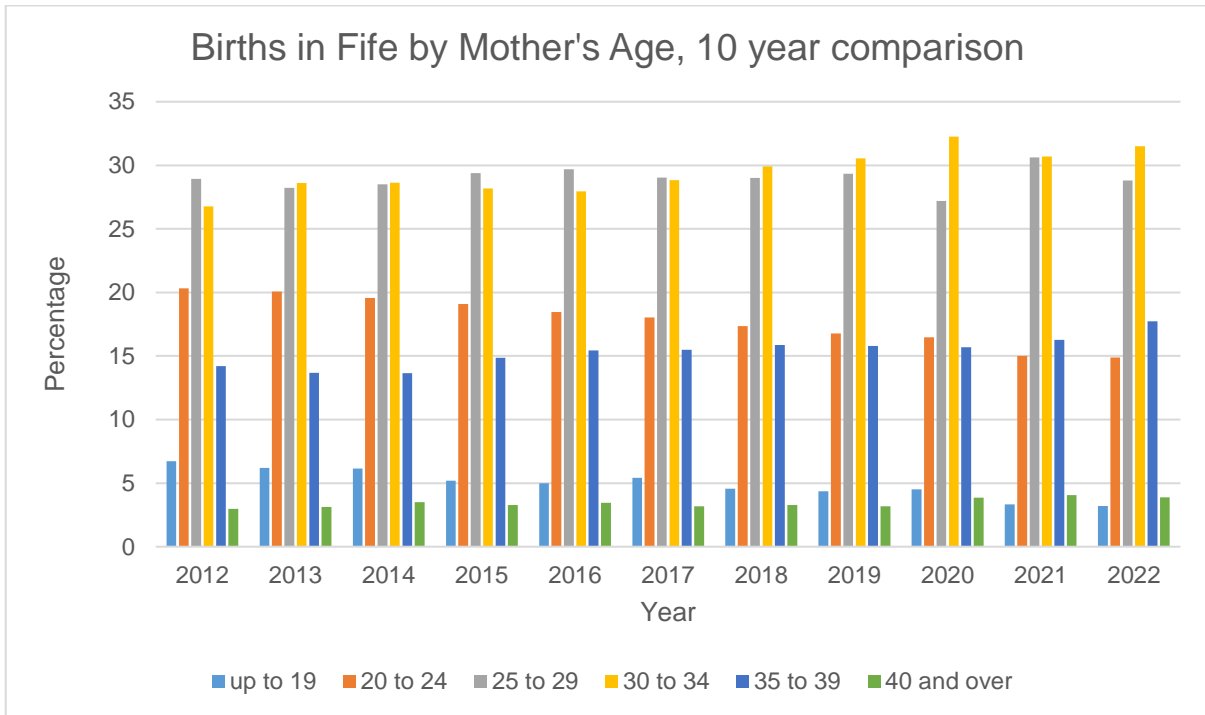
For 2021-2022 records for Fife show that 80.2% of pregnant women are of White ethnicity, 1.6% are Asian, 0.3% Mixed and 0.9% Other ethnicity.^{xiii}

Maternal obesity in Scotland continues to increase during 2021-2022 with highest recorded levels (56.9%) since reporting began and data shows that women from deprived areas are



more likely to be overweight or obese.^{xiii}

In Fife, levels for both maternity groups are higher than the Scottish average - 29.8% are recorded as overweight (compared to 29.6% for Scotland) and 30.6% are recorded as obese (compared to 27.3% for Scotland).^{xiii}



Graph 4. [Births in Fife by Mother's Age - a time series comparison 2012-2022](#).^{xii}

Teenage pregnancies in Fife

The level of teenage pregnancies in Fife continues to decrease with 250 pregnancies to mums aged under 20 in 2021 and has fallen by half over the last ten years. The reduction means that NHS Fife is no longer at the highest level of teenage pregnancies across all Scottish Health Boards with 24.6 pregnancies per 1,000. Fife is now the third highest and still higher than the Scottish average per board at 23.2 per 1,000 teenage women.^{xiv}

NHS Fife Health Board has a higher level of teenage pregnancies living in the areas with the highest deprivation – 45.7 per 1,000 women in the SIMD 1 areas. The teenage pregnancies in Fife are four times more likely to occur in the areas of highest deprivation, compared to the least deprived areas of Fife (11.6 per 1,000). This is also true for pregnancies of the under 18-year-olds with 20.5 per 1,000 in the most deprived areas and 5.5 per 1,000 in the least deprived areas in Fife.^{xiv}

10. Race



The Scottish Household survey data shows that in 2019 the proportion of White Scottish/UK adults has been considerably higher in Fife at 94%, compared to 89% average in Scotland. On the other hand, the level of Asian/ Asian Scottish/ Asian UK adults in Fife is considerably lower than the national average (1% vs 3%). There were also 5% Other White adults in Fife and less than half percent of adults have been in the



African or mixed ethnicity groups.^{ix}

The National Records of Scotland's estimates show the following breakdown of the population on Fife (between July 2020 and June 2021) in regard to their country of birth - around 334,000 people were born in the UK, 13,000 born in the European Union, 9,000 born in Asia and another 9,000 have been born in a country from the rest of the world.^{xv}

The nationality of the Fife population has also been estimated by the National Records of Scotland for the period July 2020 and June 2021 and shows that 6.6% of Fifer's did not have UK nationality. This is lower than the Scottish average where estimated 7.4% of people living in Scotland are not UK nationals. According to the data for Fife estimated 342,000 people were UK, 11,000 were European Union nationals, 10,000 Asian nationals and around 4,000 nationals from the rest of the world.^{xv}

The Pupil Census 2022 reveals that there have been 43,232 pupils from white UK background (87.1%) and 5,680 pupils from minority ethnic groups (11.4%). The number of not disclosed/unknown pupil ethnicity has stayed at a similar level to the previous year and was 709 in 2022, equalling to 1.4% of all the pupils.^{iv}

The Scottish Social Work Statistics 2021-2022 show that 1% from all looked after children in Fife were minority ethnic.^{vi}

By far the largest number of reported charges related to Hate crime from the Procurator Fiscal offices in Fife is connected to racially aggravated crime. The highest reported number in the last 10 years was in 2015/16 – total of 235. The number over the last three years has increased slightly with 173 reported cases in 2022/23 financial year.^{xi}

11. Religion and Belief



The Scottish Household survey 2019 shows that the majority of adults in Fife did not belong to a religion (60%), followed by 19% belonging to the Church of Scotland. The Roman Catholic and the Other Christian groups each represented 10% of the adults in Fife, and only 2% had another religion.^{ix}

There was a significant difference between the percentage of adults belonging to the Roman Catholic church, with lower representation at local level (10%) than at national (Scottish) level (13%) in 2019. This trend has been consistent over the past 10 years.^{ix}

The percentage of adults belonging to the Church of Scotland in Fife for the last decade, has followed the national pattern and noticeably reduced from 29% in 2009 to 19% in 2019.^{ix}

The reported charges of religiously aggravated crime in Fife have been typically low. The highest reported number of 29 was in the financial year 2017/18 and has been fairly consistent over the last three years with 12 reported in 2022/23.^{xi}



12. Sex

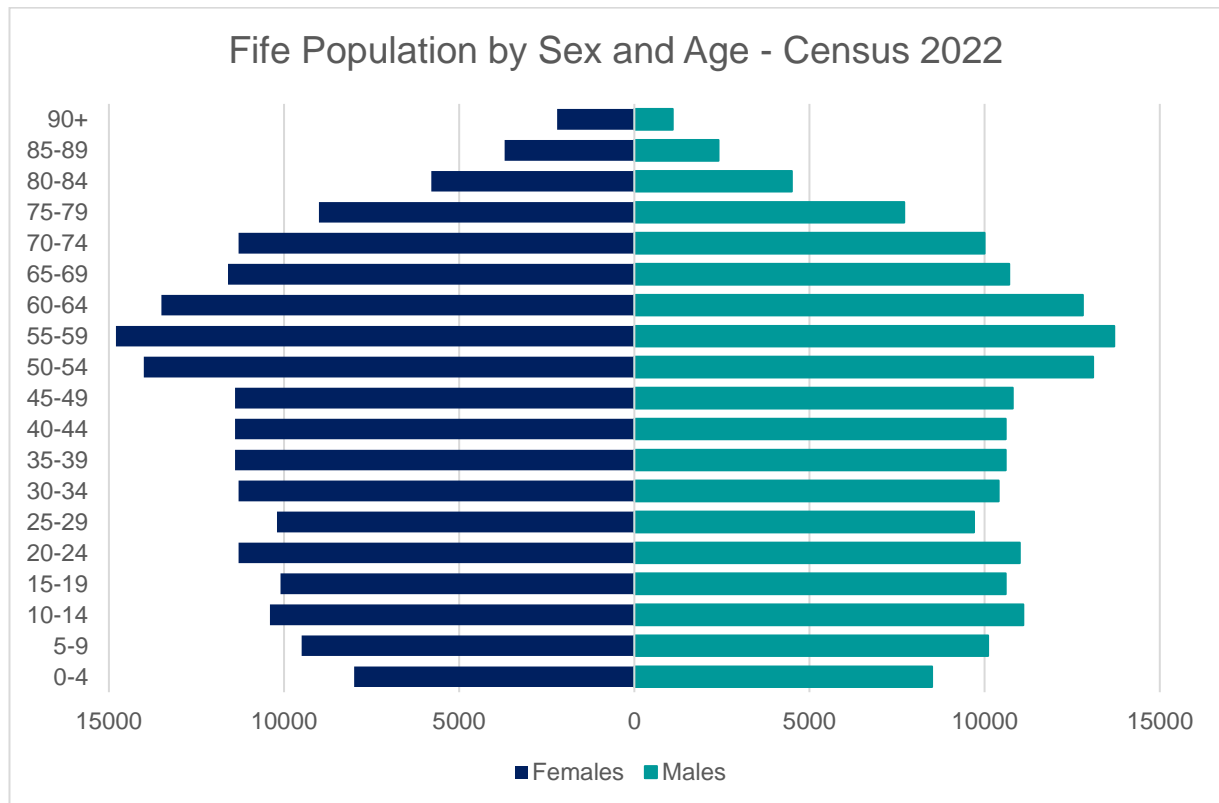


Population breakdown by age groups

The population in Fife was represented by 48.5% male and 51.5% female residents in 2022ⁱ and this proportion is expected to stay the same when looking into the projections for 2028.ⁱⁱ A breakdown of Fife's population by sex and age can be seen in Graph 5.ⁱ

In 2022 there were 179,500 males in Fife respectively 51.6% of the children and young people, 48.7% of the working age adults and 45.5% of the older people in Fife. For the same year the females in Fife were 190,900 and this was 48.4% of the children and young people, 51.3% of the working age adults and 54.5% of the older people.ⁱ

The projection for 2028 is expected to have 181,938 males and 189,492 females in Fife, but those numbers might be optimistic considering the current population of 370,400 and the expected trend for population decrease.ⁱⁱ



Graph 5. [Fife's Population by Sex and Age, Census 2022.](#)ⁱ

Life expectancy and death rates

The life expectancy for all individuals at birth in Fife has been increasing over the past 20 years, although it has slightly decreased compared to the 2018-2020 data. For males the life expectancy is a positive 3.1% in the 2019-2021 estimated data (average age of 76.8 years) compared to 2001-2003 estimated data (average age of 74.5 years). For females this is a positive 2.0% in the 2019-2021 estimated data (average age of 81.0 years) compared to 2001-2003 estimated data (average age of 79.4 years).ⁱⁱ



There continues to be slightly higher death rates in females in Fife 2,310 in 2022, compared to 2,250 male registered deaths for the same year.ⁱⁱ

The leading cause of death in 2022 in Fife for males was Ischaemic heart diseases (14.9%), followed by Dementia and Alzheimer Disease (6.5%), Malignant neoplasm of trachea, bronchus and lung (6.5%), Cerebrovascular disease (6.2%) with increase of 0.9% compared to the previous year and Chronic lower respiratory disease (5.2%) with an increase of 1.1% on the previous year.ⁱⁱ

For Fife females, the leading cause of death in 2022 was Dementia and Alzheimer Disease (13.9%). This was followed by Ischaemic heart diseases (9.0%), Cerebrovascular disease (7.0%), Malignant neoplasm of trachea, bronchus and lung (5.3%) with 1.7% decrease on the previous year and Chronic lower respiratory disease (5.1%) with an increase of 1.1% on the previous year.ⁱⁱ

Migration

From the total +1,764 net migration in Fife in 2020-2021, there were 854 males and 910 females.ⁱⁱ

Employment

For the period 2022-2023 80.2% of males and 71.9% of females in Fife were in employment. The proportion of self-employed males has fallen with 2.3% down to 6.8%, while that of self-employed females has increased slightly to 4.9%. The percentage of self-employed males and females in Fife is considerably lower than the national and UK levels.^{viii}

The percentage of males who were employees in 2022-2023 has increased to 73.4%, a 9.1% increase on the previous year, and much higher than the Scottish (67.3%) and UK (66.7%) levels. The employee percentage for females has also increased with 3.7% to 66.4%, which is similar to the Scottish and UK average.^{viii}

There is still £66.10 difference between the gross weekly earning of male versus female full-time workers in Fife in 2022. Average hourly pay for full-time males being £15.80 and £15.34 for full-time females. The full-time average hourly pay for males in Fife is considerably lower than the Scottish (£16.91) and UK (£16.97) average. Females in full-time employment in Fife are far lower paid per hour than the Scottish female average (£16.29) but just under the UK (£15.49) average.^{viii}

In September 2023 4% of males and 2.6% of females in Fife were claiming out-of-work benefit. These levels are similar to the Scottish (3.7% males, 2.4% females) and UK (4.2% males and 3.2% females) ones.^{viii}

13. Sexual Orientation



The Scottish Household survey 2019 shows that 98% of adults in Fife identified as heterosexual, and 1% identified as gay/lesbian. These levels were similar to the Scottish levels at 97% and 2% respectively.^{ix}



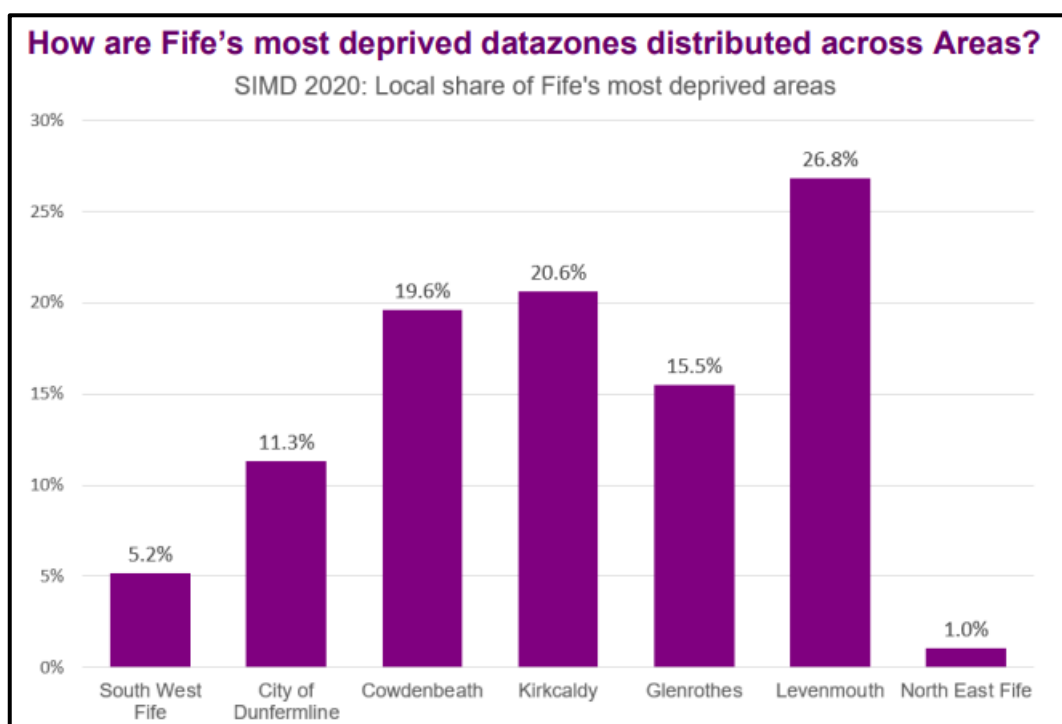
The number of reported charges of sexual orientation aggravated hate crime in Fife vary over the last 10 years, with higher figures recorded in the later years. For 2022/23 there were 76 cases, a considerable decrease from the 95 cases reported in 2021/22. Kirkcaldy area tend to report overall higher numbers in comparison to Dunfermline. For the year 2022/23 there were more than double reported cases in Kirkcaldy compared to Dunfermline.^{xi}

14. Socio-economic disadvantage and Poverty



The percentage of workless households in Fife in 2022 was 16.3%, which has decreased with 6.8% compared to 2021, and is now lower than the Scottish average 17.8%.^{viii}

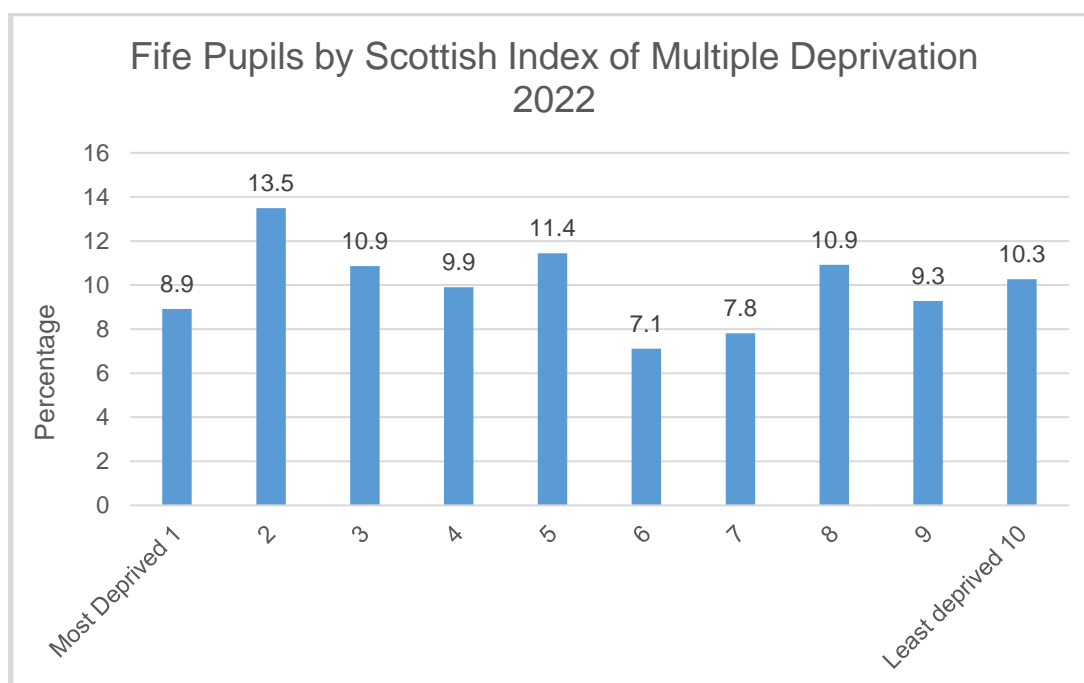
An article by Fife Council on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation published June 2020 shows how the most deprived data zones were distributed across Fife in 2020.^{xvi} (Graph 6)



Graph 6. [KnowFife: Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020](#)^{xvi}

The Pupil Census 2022 gives us information on where our pupils live considering the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.^{iv} (Graph 7)





Graph 7. [Pupil census 2022 - supplementary statistics](#)^{iv}

The Fife Child Poverty Action Report 2021/22 revealed 17.3% of Fife’s Children lived in relative poverty and 14.1% in absolute poverty, which was considerably higher than the Scottish 15.9% and 12.9% respectively.^{xvii}

The Highest rate of children living in relative poverty in Fife then was in Kirkcaldy Central (25.8%), whilst the lowest rate was in St Andrews (9.1%). Children registered for Free School Meals in Fife were 23.6% of P6- P7 pupils and 19.4% of the Secondary school pupils. In addition, 20% of Fife’s families with children lived in fuel poverty while 7% lived in extreme fuel poverty.^{xvii}

The [Tackling Poverty & Preventing Crisis 2022/23](#) report showed that this had increased to 23.2% of children in Fife (aged under 16) living in relative poverty before housing costs and 18.5% were living in absolute poverty.^{xviii}

The localities with highest levels were in Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages (34.4%) and Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty (33.3%).^{xviii}

The SEIC report shows that in May 2023, from the five local authorities working together in the collaborative, Fife had the highest level of children and young people living in poverty (22.1%) and living in SIMD Quintile 1 (22%) and also the highest free school meals rate at 20.6%. (The other four local authorities in the collaborative are City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian and the Scottish Borders.)ⁱⁱⁱ



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What did we miss?

➤ Tell us about your experience of (in)Equality in Fife

[Fife Centre for Equalities](#) recognises that several aspects of inequality are not covered in this report and we invite interested parties and colleagues to work in partnership to increase knowledge and understanding of barriers faced by various equality groups.

We need diverse voices and we welcome qualitative data and personal stories to help us shape our work, as well as links to further reports. If you have any suggestion in how to improve equality evidence, please tell us.

If you live, work or study in Fife, please consider volunteering as an [EQUALITY FACTFINDER](#) to lead action research on barriers to equality faced in your community through consulting and engaging with a wide range of individuals, organisations and groups.

Contact:

Fife Centre for Equalities

New Volunteer House,
16 East Fergus Place,
Kirkcaldy, KY1 1XT

Telephone: 01592 645 310

Email: info@centreforequalities.org.uk

Opening Hours:

Monday-Friday, 09:00 – 17:00



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APPENDIX 1: Keywords and themes

Protected Characteristics or 'Equality groups' referred to in this document are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion and belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

With the Fairer Scotland Duty (1 April 2018)

- Socio-economic deprivation

Additional related groups or characteristics of people at higher risk of harm, abuse, discrimination or disadvantage include:

- Children
- Young People
- Older People
- Very Old People
- Unpaid Carers
- Lone Parents
- Non-English speakers
- People living in a rural location
- Digitally excluded people
- Armed Forces Veterans
- People with experience of violence and/or abuse.
- People with experience of alcohol and/or substance use.
- Homeless people, those with experience of being homeless or being at risk of becoming homeless.
- Households in poverty
- Socio-economic groups, SIMD
- Migrants
- Refugees
- Asylum seekers
- Exploited & trafficked migrants
- People in immigration detention or immigration removal centres
- Residents or detainees in prison, youth custody, or health and social care settings



APPENDIX 2:

Public Authorities with Equality Act 2010 Specific Duties in Fife

Public authorities subject to the specific equality duties arising under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, and specific duties which are imposed by The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012 (revised April 2016) have the requirements below in addition to the general equality duty:

- report on mainstreaming the equality duty
- publish equality outcomes and report progress
- assess and review policies and practices
- gather and use employee information
- publish information on board diversity and succession planning
- publish gender pay gap information
- publish statements on equal pay
- consider award criteria and conditions in relation to public procurement
- publish required information in a manner that is accessible.

Q: What authorities does this apply to in Fife?

[Fife]

- Fife College
- Fife Council
- Fife Health and Social Care Partnership
- Fife Education Authority
- Fife Licensing Board
- NHS Fife
- University of St Andrews

[National]

- Accountant in Bankruptcy
- Disclosure Scotland
- Education Scotland
- Police Scotland (Chief Constable of)
- Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
- Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service
- Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commission
- Scottish Prison Service
- Scottish Public Pensions Agency
- Scottish Enterprise
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (Chief Officer of)
- Scottish Funding Council
- The Scottish Legal Aid Board
- Scottish Ministers
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Scottish Police Authority
- Scottish Qualifications Authority
- Scottish Social Services Council
- Scottish Water
- Skills Development Scotland
- South-East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN)
- SportScotland (Scottish Sports Council)
- State Hospitals Board for Scotland
- Student Awards Agency for Scotland
- Transport Scotland
- VisitScotland



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 - ii [Fife Council Area Profile \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](https://nrscotland.gov.uk)
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