

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2650
Date: 20 December 2022



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

Please can you provide figures for the number of revenge porn offences where the victim was between the ages of 0-17, and the method of communication was a social media platform. Please can you break down this data by social media platform.

I'd like to request this information for the following years:

- 2021/22
- 2020/21
- 2019/20
- 2018/19
- 2017/18

I would first ask you to note that Police Scotland do not use the term 'Revenge Porn' but instead refers to Non-Consensual Sharing of Intimate Images which is legislated by Section 2 of the Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016.

Police Scotland agree with survivors who say the term 'Revenge Porn' trivialises their experiences - it makes them feel as if they have done something wrong to justify an act of revenge. The focus on 'porn' encourages victim blaming in that they should not have taken or allowed the videos or picture to be taken. It should also be noted that the intimate images may not be considered pornographic in nature.

I want to also clarify that Section 2 of the Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016 became effective on 3 July 2017.

Therefore, please be advised of the following:

| Crime Classification | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | Grand Total |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------|
| Disclosure of an intimate image | 137 | 323 | 389 | 436 | 493 | 303 | 2081 |
| Threatening to disclose an intimate image | 111 | 244 | 270 | 333 | 353 | 235 | 1546 |

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I can further advise you in relation to the further breakdown requested, this cannot be electronically extracted and each record would have to be examined. Therefore in accordance with Sections 12(1) (Excessive cost of compliance) and 16(4) (Refusal of request) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (the Act), this letter represents a Refusal Notice.

By way of explanation, the information you have requested would be recorded in the content of a crime report and cannot be electronically extracted. The only way to provide this information would be to physically examine each of the crime reports noted and extract any relevant information. As such, given the volume of reports this is an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee at foidundee@scotland.police.uk quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to foi@scotland.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalrnarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.

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