| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2298  Responded to: 26th September 2023 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Please can you provide me with:

## The number of recorded sexual offences against children aged under 18, from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, broken down by each offence

Crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the Scottish Government Justice Department (SGJD) offence classification codes and are not thereafter sub-categorised. In this instance, there are some sexual crimes whereby the SGJD offence classification includes a reference to the victim’s age, however there are also offence classifications which do not.

As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

By way of explanation, the crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no facility whereby the age of the victim can be easily extracted. The only possible way to establish the age of the victims in these offences would be to carry out case by case assessment of each associated crime report – an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

Please find an attachment titled ‘Applicant Data’ which provides the number of all recorded and detected Group 2 (Sexual) Crimes, for the time period requested, broken down by crime classification and month.

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 20th September 2023.

If you require any further assistance please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.