| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-2041Responded to: 09 July 2025 |
| --- | --- |

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

**Following the recent publication of data in relation to Greater Manchester Police, can you advise, based on the most recent period for which data is available, how many investigations Police Scotland is or has been pursuing into 'multi-victim, multi-offender' child sexual exploitation/abuse, and how many victims, survivors, and potential suspects these inquiries covered at the relevant date?**

**If no such data is available, please advise what steps Police Scotland is taking to assess whether Scotland has a problem with what have been termed organised grooming gangs on a similar scale to that experienced over recent years in England?**

I have considered your request and unfortunately, I am unable to provide the requested information as it would prove too costly to do so within the current FOI cost threshold of £600. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

By way of explanation, it is not possible to identify group/ multi person-based figures. The crime recording systems used by Police Scotland and our legacy forces prior to the formation of Police Scotland have no facility which allows us to carry out a search of group-based Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) offences.

To extract the data involves resource intensive manual searching of police systems to identify cases. There is not one specific crime for CSE therefore the true picture of offending cannot be shown without examining all relevant crimes individually. An exercise which would clearly exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

Police Scotland are aware of the scrutiny that UK forces have come under following recent publications and recommendation. We have of course carried out comparisons with or own current policies and practices and are updating polices in line with recommendations where needed. A recent scoping of policing divisions across Police Scotland shows that there are no ongoing group-based child exploitation investigations on going at this time.

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 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](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by email 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.