| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-3185Responded to: 26 September 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Please provide record-level (row-by-row) data for all CSE-related crimes in your force area for each calendar year 2010–2024 inclusive (and 2025 year-to-date if available).**

1. **Scope / definition**
* **Confirm the operational definition of “Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)” and whether you use a CSE flag/marker.**
* **If no CSE flag exists, please state which Home Office offence codes or crime classifications you use to identify CSE offences (e.g., grooming, arranging/ facilitating child sexual offences, sexual communication with a child, controlling child prostitution/indecency, etc.).**
1. **Requested dataset fields (record-level, anonymised). For each relevant record, please include:**
* **Year of offence/record**
* **Crime classification/offence code**
* **Outcome code (Home Office outcome type, with description if available)**
* **Arrest made (Y/N)**
* **Suspect sex (M/F/Other/Unknown)**
* **Suspect ethnicity (classification used by force)**
* **Suspect nationality (if recorded; if not, state “not recorded”)**
* **Suspect religion (if recorded; if not, state “not recorded”)**
* **CPS referral (Y/N)**
* **CPS charging decision (if recorded by police)**
1. **Format**
* **Please supply data in machine-readable CSV with a data dictionary (field definitions, code lists, outcome descriptions).**
* **Remove any direct personal identifiers (names, DOB, addresses, case numbers).**

## If providing the above record-level dataset would:

## exceed the s.12 cost limit,

## or be refused under s.40 (personal information) or s.31 (law enforcement),

## then please instead provide annual aggregated totals for 2010–2024 (and 2025 YTD):

## Number of recorded crimes meeting your CSE definition.

## Outcomes for those crimes by Home Office outcome type.

## Number of arrests of suspects, broken down by:

## Sex (M/F/Other/Unknown)

## Ethnicity (force’s classification)

## Nationality (if recorded)

## Religion (if recorded)

## Number of CPS referrals for charging decisions.

## CPS charging decisions recorded by police (Charge/Alternative charge/No further action/Out of court/etc.).

## Assistance

## If full coverage from 2010 is not available, please provide data from the earliest year held.

## If any field is not held, please confirm explicitly (s.1(1)(a)).

## If partial data is possible, please release what you hold and advise under s.16 how to refine further.

All incidents reported to Police Scotland are recorded on our Storm Command and Control system. There is a 'child concern' call type, but nothing specific to child exploitation or grooming gangs, as that may not be known at the time of the initial call.

Concern reports are submitted for all child concern incidents in Police Scotland on to the Interim Vulnerable Persons Database (iVPD).

IVPD has an 'At risk Marker' for Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) which can be added by the officer if they suspect exploitation may be a factor, but again, there is nothing specific to group or gang-based child exploitation.

Our crime recording system also has markers for exploitation but not specifically group or gang based.

The current crime recording systems used by Police Scotland (and our previous legacy force crime recording systems prior to the formation of Police Scotland) have no facility which allow us to carry out a search for group or gang based CSE activity.

Additionally, there is no one specific crime classification of relevance a number of crime classifications and legislation are used to report what might be termed as exploitation, all of which would need to be individually reviewed for relevance.

As such, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

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.