| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-2321  Responded to: 08 September 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Whether Police Scotland ran investigations called Operation Dash or Operation Cerrar?

## If so, were these investigations into Child Rape or Grooming Gangs?

I can confirm that Police did run operations called Operation Dash and Operation Cerrar. Both operations investigated child grooming and child sexual exploitation.

**How many cases of Child Rape or Grooming Gangs has Police Scotland investigated over the last 20 years?**

## How many individuals have been charged by Police Scotland with participating in Child Rape or Grooming Gangs over the last 20 years?

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.

## How many individuals in Scotland have been convicted of participating in Child Rape or grooming gangs over the last 20 years?

Police Scotland does not hold criminal conviction/ prosecution data and section 17 of the Act therefore applies. You may wish to contact the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) and/ or the Scottish Courts Service.

## Has Police Scotland produced any reports on Child Rape or Grooming Gangs over the last 20 years and, if so, what are the titles of these reports?

Given the scope of your request, research is an exercise that would far exceed 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.

To explain, all force share drives, personal drives and email accounts, as well as hard copy file locations, could house information of relevance.

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.