| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-1224Responded to: 23rd May 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Please tell me the number of recorded offences of Communicating Indecently with a Child (s.24 and s.34 of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009) recorded

## from (and including) April 1st 2022 until (and including) March 31st, 2023.

## Please could you break it down into the two age groups (under 13 and 13-15)

The table at the end of this document provides the number of recorded offences, broken down by Divisional area and month from the 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.

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 17th May 2023.

## […] and each age group by gender.

## If possible, please can you tell me the age and gender of the youngest victim.

## If possible, please tell me all the forms of communication (eg. text message, which social media or messaging platform such as Whatsapp, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Kik etc.) that have been recorded as having been used in connection with recorded offences of Communicating Indecently with a Child, from (and including) April 1st 2022 , until (and including) March 31st 2023.

I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

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 which allows for this level of information to be automatically retrieved.

Case by case assessment of all the crimes listed within the table provided would have to be carried out to establish the exact age of the victims, their gender and forms of communication used.

As illustrated by the statistics provided, this would involve individually examining a vast number of crime reports - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/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.

**Recorded Communicate Indecently/ Cause see/ hear indecent communication with a child offences**

1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023

| **Division** | **Crime/ Offence** | **Apr** | **May** | **Jun** | **Jul** | **Aug** | **Sept** | **Oct** | **Nov** | **Dec** | **Jan** | **Feb** | **Mar** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| North East | Communicate Indecently/ Cause see/hear Indec Comm – M&F (<13) | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Commun Indecently/ Cause see/hear indec comm – M&F (13-15) (Cons) | 0 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| Tayside | Communicate Indecently/ Cause see/hear Indec Comm – M&F (<13) | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 6 |
| Commun Indecently/ Cause see/hear indec comm – M&F (13-15) (Cons) | 3 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Highlands & Islands | Communicate Indecently/ Cause see/hear Indec Comm – M&F (<13) | 0 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Commun Indecently/ Cause see/hear indec comm – M&F (13-15) (Cons) | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 5 | 4 |
| Forth Valley | Communicate Indecently/ Cause see/hear Indec Comm – M&F (<13) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forth Valley | Commun Indecently/ Cause see/hear indec comm – M&F (13-15) (Cons) | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Edinburgh | Communicate Indecently/ Cause see/hear Indec Comm – M&F (<13) | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Commun Indecently/ Cause see/hear indec comm – M&F (13-15) (Cons) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lothian & Borders  | Communicate Indecently/ Cause see/hear Indec Comm – M&F (<13) | 2 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 |
| Commun Indecently/ Cause see/hear indec comm – M&F (13-15) (Cons) | 2 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Fife | Communicate Indecently/ Cause see/hear Indec Comm – M&F (<13) | 2 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Commun Indecently/ Cause see/hear indec comm – M&F (13-15) (Cons) | 3 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| Greater Glasgow | Communicate Indecently/ Cause see/hear Indec Comm – M&F (<13) | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| Commun Indecently/ Cause see/hear indec comm – M&F (13-15) (Cons) | 3 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| Ayrshire  | Communicate Indecently/ Cause see/hear Indec Comm – M&F (<13) | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| Commun Indecently/ Cause see/hear indec comm – M&F (13-15) (Cons) | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 3 |
| Lanarkshire | Communicate Indecently/ Cause see/hear Indec Comm – M&F (<13) | 0 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 6 |
| Commun Indecently/ Cause see/hear indec comm – M&F (13-15) (Cons) | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 4 |
| Argyll & West Dunbartonshire | Communicate Indecently/ Cause see/hear Indec Comm – M&F (<13) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Argyll & West Dumbartonshire | Commun Indecently/ Cause see/hear indec comm – M&F (13-15) (Cons) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Renfrewshire & Inverclyde | Communicate Indecently/ Cause see/hear Indec Comm – M&F (<13) | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Commun Indecently/ Cause see/hear indec comm – M&F (13-15) (Cons) | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Dumfries & Galloway | Communicate Indecently/ Cause see/hear Indec Comm – M&F (<13) | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Commun Indecently/ Cause see/hear indec comm – M&F (13-15) (Cons) | 4 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| **Total**  |  | **44** | **56** | **45** | **49** | **56** | **50** | **56** | **40** | **44** | **38** | **45** | **70** |