| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1354  Responded to: 16 May 2025 |
| --- | --- |

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

**By ‘paedophile hunter’ I mean a group of people or individual who gather their own evidence of alleged paedophiles.**

**1. In how many cases was the evidence provided by ‘paedophile hunters’ admissible as evidence for each of the years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024?**

**3. In how many cases were the evidence not admissible for each of the years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024?**

**4. How many cases resulted in a mistrial because of evidence submitted from a ‘paedophile hunter’ for each of the years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024?**

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.

**2. How many people were charged because of evidence supplied to the police from ‘paedophile hunters’ in each of the years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024?**

**5. What percentage of cases of the crime of meeting a child following sexual grooming involved evidence from a ‘pedophile hunter’ for each of the years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024?**

Unfortunately, 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.

To explain, we are unable to search crime reports based on any link to ‘paedophile hunters’. All potentially relevant Crime Reports would have to be individually assessed and, as such, this is an exercise which would 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](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](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) 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.