

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2668
Date: 30th December 2022



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

I would like to please get the following data that you hold on the number of recorded child abuse offences, child sex abuse offences and child sexual exploitation offences.

For “children”, I am asking for data on under 18s.

Please could I have the data (set out below) for the financial years:

- 2016/2017,
- 2017/2018,
- 2018/2019,
- 2019/2020,
- 2020/2021,
- 2021/2022

I would like the following information:

**The total number of recorded child abuse offences (including physical, emotional and online), for each year category specified above
And, how many of the above child abuse offences resulted in a charge or summons, for each year category**

**The total number of recorded sexual offences against children (including online), for each year category specified above
And, how many of the above sexual offences against children resulted in a charge or summons, for each year category**

**The total number of recorded child sexual exploitation offences (including online), for each year category specified above
And, how many of the above child sexual exploitation offences resulted in a charge or summons, for each year category**

I must first of all advise you that crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the Scottish Government Justice Department offence classification codes and those do not align with the classifications listed in your request and nor do the outcomes.

OFFICIAL

We can only provide recorded and detected crime statistics and not the Home Office outcome classifications, for example 'summons' is not a feature of the Scottish Criminal Justice System.

As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

To be of some assistance, we have recently published a FOI Response which provides Group 2 crime statistics:-

[22-2341 – Crime/ Incident Stats – Sexual / Domestic – 2015-2022 - Police Scotland](#)

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management Dundee, quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions. Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to foi@scotland.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.