| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-3039Responded to: 11 January 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding.

**Information for crime committed by children is not recorded in Scotland.**

**Why is it recorded in England and Wales?**

**I am seeking information if you are specifically instructed by the Scottish government not to record these numbers.**

**I would like to receive the instruction letter.**

**If not, what is the reason that you do not record them?**

**It is part of normal procedure in England and Wales.**

**Please provide your answer, or your review.**

First of all, I can confirm that a review of FOI 23-2796 is being progressed separately.

Please accept our apologies for the delay.

In relation to the questions above I would stress that FOI legislation provides a right of access to recorded information only.

Section 17 of the Act therefore applies as there is no recorded information held by Police Scotland that would answer the questions posed.

I can however confirm that crimes committed by children are, of course, recorded.

We do not however routinely or otherwise generate data from our crime recording systems on the national prevalence of crime committed by individuals of a certain age.

Such a process is complex - the age of the accused at the time of the offence is not a figure that is recorded but rather it is the result of a calculation, comparing the accused’s date of birth with the committed dates of the crime - which can span months or even years, adding to the complexity.

Such a task is therefore incredibly labour intensive, even for smaller locations or a short period of time.

Given the FOI cost limit of £600, it is usually not possible to answer FOIs seeking age data for those reasons.

In relation to your further email which included a data table for comparative purposes, I would clarify that those data relate to convictions.

That information is not held by Police Scotland and would presumably have been generated by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) and/ or Scottish Courts Service.

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.