

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2021-2850
Date: 14th January 2021



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.

The information requested below relates to the sexual offences Scotland act sections 33 and 34.

In regards to our Fife division and Tayside division (where time allows)

1. I would like to know the number of “victims” who were NOT of the ages between 13 and under 16, ie people who impersonated an individual between 13 and under 16.

Fife Division: 10
Tayside Division: 6

Please note that these figures relate to number of victims/complainers and not number of crimes.

I would also advise that there is one police report in our Fife Division where the victim age is unconfirmed and so it is not possible to confirm whether a pseudo age was used or not. This related to a mobile phone with relevant messages being found by a member of the public.

2. The number of crimes reported by “Vigilante” groups who have taken the law into there own hands to entrap people they believe to be committing an offence. (A vigilante being defined as “ a member of a volunteer committee organized to suppress and punish crime summarily (as when the processes of law are viewed as inadequate) broadly : a self-appointed doer of justice”)

Firstly I must advise that Police Scotland does not use the term “vigilante group” and instead refers to activist groups that report Online child sexual abuse and exploitation offending as Online Child Sexual Abuse Activist Groups (OCAG). I have therefore based my response on our definition of OCAG and not as noted above by yourself.

Fife Division: 8
Tayside Division: 3

OFFICIAL

As per question 1, there is one report from our Fife Division where these details are unknown.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management 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.pnn.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.