| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-2113  Responded to: 24th July 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I am looking for the source of statistics published in Scottish Legal News on 25 June 25 […] Here is the article where the stats were mentioned.

## [Call for police to be trained to deal with online sex crimes | Scottish Legal News](https://www.scottishlegal.com/articles/call-for-police-to-be-trained-to-deal-with-online-sex-crimes)

## "Figures from Police Scotland show that:

## Between 2023-24 and 2024-25, sexual crimes increased by three per cent, from 14,484 to 14,892. Sex crimes are now at the second highest level seen since 1971, which is the first year with comparable data. At least 34 per cent of sexual crimes related to a victim under 18.

## 4,070 sexual crimes, 27 per cent of all sexual crimes recorded in 2024-25, were cyber-crimes. There were 1,490 sexual cyber-crimes recorded in 2024-25 with a victim under 18.

## Recorded crimes of indecent photos of children increased by 11 per cent from 747 to 828.

## There has been a 28 per cent increase in the number of ‘indecent photos of children’ crimes recorded over the last decade, from 645 to 828, and an 11 per cent increase just over the last year. "

## Is there a report or government website link I can use as the originating source please?

Unfortunately, the information sought (a “source” for the statistics listed) is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

In this instance, you may wish to submit this query to the Scottish Legal News directly as they drafted the article.

I can however advise that our recorded and detected crime statistics are publicly available:

[How we are performing - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/)

It is important to note that ‘detected’ crimes are those where an accused has been identified and there exists a sufficiency of evidence under Scots Law to justify consideration of criminal proceedings.

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.