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Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0087
Date: 17th February 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.

Prior to responding to your information request, I wish to highlight that keeping children and young people safe is a priority for Police Scotland and we strive to continually improve our understanding of the nature and scale of child sexual abuse. We work closely with partner agencies to identify children who may be at risk of the many forms of child abuse including; neglect, physical abuse, emotional abuse, child sexual exploitation (CSE), grooming and increasingly, the threat of online offending.

Protecting children requires a well-co-ordinated and committed partnership approach where children and young people who may be at risk are proactively identified, protected and supported. Through partnership working we will improve our response to Child Protection and increase opportunities for early and effective interventions in respect of children and perpetrators.

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

1. What specific skills and training do detectives/employees within Non Recent receive which sets them apart from the Recent Team?

All officers investigating either non-recent or recent abuse against children and young people undergo the same training to ensure they are suitably trained for specialist roles.

2. What are the overall and specific process differentiators when conducting a Non Recent enquiry which sets them apart from Recent Team?

The difference between a non-recent and recent enquiry is essentially the passage of time.

A non-recent crime is defined as one which took place over a year ago. That said, Police Scotland's non-recent child abuse teams will generally investigate crimes reported by victims who are now adults but who were a child at the time of the offence. Due to the passage of time, there is very low likelihood of obtaining the usual forensic, medical and/or CCTV/digital evidence normally available in recent crimes. The officers therefore rely on a significant amount of manual research and tracing/locating witnesses who have often moved away from the area the offence took place. The same is often the case in terms of identifying and tracing suspects.

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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.