

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2376
Date: 29th November 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.

- 1. In the last financial year 2021/22 please state how many (a) crimes were logged and (b) people charged by your force with sexual grooming (Home Office Offence code: 88A)?**
- 2. In relation to the reports of the crimes having been committed (rather than the cases of people being charged) is there a facility on your computer databases to flag if a particular website or social media platform was used as the basis for the communication?**
- 3. If you did record the sites/platforms could you provide me with the breakdown of how many crime cases that were logged related to each website/platform, making sure to identify the website/platform.**

In response to your request, I must first of all advise you that Home Office Offence codes apply to England and Wales only, and do not extend to Scotland.

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.

Crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the Scottish Government Justice Department offence classification codes and are not thereafter sub-categorised.

The crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no facility or markers etc. available to allow for the automatic retrieval of crimes relating to a specific website/ social media platform.

As such, case by case assessment would have to be carried out for all relevant crime reports to ascertain if they were connected to a website etc. – this is an exercise that would far exceed the £600 cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations, and Section 12(1) of the Act would apply.

If it would be of some interest, we can provide general statistics for Grooming of Children for the Purposes of Sexual Offences, however as explained, we would be unable to provide a response for the website part of your request.

OFFICIAL

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.