

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1065
Date: 6th June 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. Please tell me the number of recorded offences of Communicating Indecently with a Child (s.24 and s.34 of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009) recorded from (and including) April 1st 2021 until (and including) March 31st, 2022.**
- 2. Please could you break it down into the two age groups (< 13 and 13-15) and each age group by gender.**

The table below provides the number of recorded crimes for Communicating Indecently with a Child, from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 (inclusive).

| Offence | Total |
|---|------------|
| Communicate Indecently/Cause see/hear Indec Comm–Male & Female (13-15yrs)(Cons) | 267 |
| Communicate Indecently/Cause see/hear Indec Comm –Male & Female (< 13yrs) | 369 |
| Total | 636 |

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 17th May 2022.

The Recorded Crimes are extracted using the Date Raised, and then selecting the Stats Class Codes '201622' and '201636'.

- 3. If possible, please can you tell me the age and gender of the youngest victim.**
- 4. If possible, please tell me all the forms of communication (eg. text message, which social media or messaging platform such as Whatsapp, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Kik etc.) that have been recorded as having been used in connection with recorded offences of Communicating Indecently with a Child, from (and including) April 1st 2020 , until (and including) March 31st 2021.**

In response to these questions, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

OFFICIAL

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

By way of explanation, the crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no facility available whereby the specific details requested can be easily extracted.

The only possible way to provide you with an accurate response to your request, would be to carry out case by case assessment of each of the above crimes, to establish the age and gender of each victim, and the form of communication used - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

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.