| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2488  Responded to: 19th October 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## A breakdown by year of how many individuals in total were identified as a perpetrator in connection with an indecent image of a child

## And

## How many of these individuals were under 18

## if possible a further breakdown by individual age of all those under 18.

## • In the year 2023 so far - January to September

## • January - December 2020

## • January - December 2019

## • January - December 2018

Having considered your request in terms of the above Act, 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.

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 whereby the age of the accused at the time of offence can be easily extracted.

The relevant crime classification is ‘Taking, Distribution, Possession of Indecent Photos of Children’ and all crime reports recorded for this offence during the time period specified would have to be individually examined to calculate and note the age of the Accused at the time of the offence.

As illustrated by our published [crime statistics](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/), this would involve carrying out case by case assessment of a vast number of reports - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) 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.