

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1633
Date: 22 August 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.

The number of recorded sexual offences against children aged under 18, for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, broken down by each offence (as set out in the attached document, which you provided for the equivalent request for 2019/20).

For the periods 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018, 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, and 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, broken down by year, the number of suspects charged for child sexual offences.

Crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the Scottish Government Justice Department (SGJD) offence classification codes and are not thereafter sub-categorised. In this instance, there are some sexual crimes whereby the SGJD offence classification includes a reference to the victim's age, however there are also offence classifications which do not.

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 victim can be easily extracted. The only possible way to establish the age of the victims in these offences would be to carry out case by case assessment of each associated crime report – an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

Please find an attachment titled 'Applicant Data' which provides the number of all recorded and detected Group 2 (Sexual) Crimes, for the time period requested, broken down by crime classification and Police Division.

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 12th August 2022.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee quoting the reference number given.

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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.

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