

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1585
Date: 15 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.

- 1. The number of requests the force has made to Snapchat (Snap Inc) for account data/records, as part of an investigation into sexual exploitation for each of the past three years.**
 - a) If possible, the number of these that have related to investigations into child sexual exploitation, for each of the past three years.**
 - b) If possible, the number of these investigations into sexual exploitation (involving both children and adult alleged victims), where a data request has been made to Snapchat, which have ultimately led to successful prosecutions, for each of the past three years.**
- 2. The number of emergency disclosure requests the force has made to Snapchat (Snap Inc) as part of an investigation into sexual exploitation for each of the past three years.**
 - a) If possible, the number of these that have related to investigations into child sexual exploitation, for each of the past three years.**
 - b) If possible, the number of these investigations into sexual exploitation (involving both children and adult alleged victims) where an emergency disclosure request has been made to Snapchat, which have ultimately led to successful prosecutions, for each of the past three years.**
- 3. The number of Preservation Requests (requests to preserve Snapchat account data) the force has made to Snapchat (Snap Inc) when investigating sexual exploitation cases for each of the past three years.**
 - a) If possible, the number of these that have related to investigations into child sexual exploitation, for each of the past three years.**
 - b) If possible, the number of these investigations into sexual exploitation (involving both children and adult alleged victims) where a Preservation Request has been made to Snapchat, which have ultimately led to successful prosecutions, for each of the past three years.**

Having considered your request in terms of the 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.

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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, there is no centralised system or process for recording whether social media companies have been contacted with regard to investigations. Therefore all potential relevant crime reports and associated records would have to be examined to establish whether they match the specifics of your request. As such given the vast numbers, this is an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

You may be interested in our published crime statistics: [How we are performing - Police Scotland](#)

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee at foiundee@scotland.police.uk 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.

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