| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1644  Responded to: 11 June 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Please disclose, since January 1 2023, the use of out-of-court disposals for the following offences.

## \* Possessing indecent images (any category) \* Making indecent images (any category) \* Distributing indecent images (any category)

## For each of those three categories, please breakdown each offence by the method of disposal.

## For example, how many were issues a caution, how many issues with a Community Resolution Order, and how many received NFA.

Home Office outcome categories do not extend to Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies. The information sought is not held by Police Scotland.

Crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the [Scottish Crime Recording Standard](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/p0nfjj2c/scottish-crime-recording-standard-crime-recording-and-counting-rules-april-2021.pdf?view=Standard) and crimes are reported as recorded or detected.

Detected crimes are those where an accused has been identified and there exists a sufficiency of evidence under Scots Law to justify consideration of criminal proceedings.

Corresponding data can be accessed online - [Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/).

Police Scotland does not hold data regarding cautions. In England and Wales, a caution is a formal police warning whereas in Scotland, a caution is simply informing a person of their rights. It is common law, used when interviewing a suspect, taking a statement from someone who may end up being an accused person, or when charging someone.

It should also be advised that “Community Resolution Orders” are not used in Scotland.

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](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) 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.