



Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0334

I would like to apologise for the extremely long delay in responding to this request. This has been due to an exceedingly high volume of requests and resourcing issues which have impacted both upon the Information Disclosure team and the business areas upon whom we rely to supply the information.

On 22 March 2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. How many individuals under the age of 18 have been dealt with by means of 'Outcome 21' (per the Home Office counting rules) for any offence relating to consensual child sexting in:

- a. 2016*
- b. 2017*
- c. 2018*

2. How many individuals under the age of 18 have been deal with by means of a simple or conditional caution for any offence relating to consensual child sexting in:

- c. 2016*
- d. 2017*
- e. 2018*

3. How many individuals under the age of 18 have been charged with any offence relating to consensual child sexting in:

- c. 2016*
- d. 2017*
- e. 2018.*

For clarity, references above to 'consensual child sexting' refer to any offence under s.1 of the Protection of Children Act 1978 or s.160 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 committed (or alleged against) a child where the subject of the indecent image made, distributed or possessed consents to the offence and is also a child. At the material times, such offences were 'counted' under Home Office Counting Rules as offences 86/02 and 86/10.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 s1, I can confirm that Gloucestershire Constabulary holds some relevant information.

Police Forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. It should be noted that for these reasons the figures given relate to

information from the specific recording system of Gloucestershire Constabulary and should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you receive.

Please note that our systems are designed to record information for policing purposes and the investigation of crime and not to extract statistical information. Accordingly whilst we endeavour to extract relevant data within the time limits of the Act, any data supplied is subject to these limitations.

A search of the crime recording system was carried out for substantiated crimes recorded between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2018, and where the offence is "Take/ make / distribute indecent photographs or pseudo- photographs, of children" or "Possession of an indecent or pseudo indecent photo of a child".

This has returned 20 results, broken down below by recorded outcome and year:

Outcome	2017	2018
Det Charge/Summons	2	
Det NFA No useful Purpose		14
Further Investigation Not in the Public Interest (Outcome 21)		2
Restorative Disposal Level 1		2

There are nil returns for 2016.

I understand that you have requested an internal review of the handling of your request based on not having yet received the initial response. Given that the response has now been provided, can I ask if you still wish for the internal review to proceed? Please email the department on FOI@gloucestershire.police.uk to confirm.

If you are not satisfied with this response or any actions taken in dealing with your request, you have the right to ask that we review your case under our internal procedures. Please note that a request for an internal review must be made within 20 working days of the response to your original request.

If you decide to request that such a review is undertaken and following this process you are still unsatisfied, you then have the right to direct your complaint to the Information Commissioner for consideration.

Yours sincerely,