



Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0475

On 28/04/2023, you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Please find freedom of information request below. Receipt of you receiving the request and a reference number would be appreciated.

1. Please tell me the number of recorded offences under s.15A of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, sexual communication with a child, (Home Office recording code 71/17) recorded from (and including) April 1st 2022 until (and including) March 31st, 2023.
2. Where possible I would like to know the age and gender of the victim, broken down into age groups: 11 and under, 12-15, 16 and over.
3. Please tell me the age and gender of the youngest victim.
4. Please tell me all the forms of communication (eg. which social media or messaging platform such as WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Kik, TikTok etc.) that have been recorded as having been used in connection with recorded offences under s.15A of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, sexual communication with a child, from (and including) April 1st 2022 , until (and including) March 31st 2023.

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.

1. I can confirm a search has been conducted on the Crime Recording System for offences under Section 15A of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, 071/17 Sexual

Communications with a child recorded from 01/04/2022 – 31/03/2023, this has returned 98 records.

2. The total has been broken down by age group and gender.

Please note that these are uncorrelated tables to avoid the risk of the identification of an individual.

Age group	Total
12-15	50
0-11	11
16-17	10
Unknown	27
Total	98

Gender	Total
F	57
M	12
U	29
Total	98

3. The youngest victim is within the age group of 0-11.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Gloucestershire Constabulary, when refusing to provide information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states the fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

With regard to the disclosure of the gender, the following exemption applies:

Section 40(2) Personal Information

Section 40(2) applies to third party personal data. This would not be released under the Freedom of Information Act unless there is a strong public interest. The disclosure of any information which could lead to the identification of an individual would breach the Data Protection Principles contained with the Data Protection Act 2018, namely the first principle which states that personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to individuals

This exemption is absolute and class based therefore I am not required to apply either the public interest test or harm test in disclosure.

In accordance with the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this part of your request.

4. A manual review has been carried out to identify the social media platforms recorded. Any records that are not relevant to your request have been removed from the below response.

Please note that on occasions, there may be more than one social media platform used on one crime.

Platform	Total
ChatIW	2
Facebook	1
Facebook Messenger	1
Facetime	1
IMVU	1
Instagram	4
Itsme	1
KIK	1
Meet24	1
Messages	1
Mobile phone	1
Omegle	3
Online Game	1
Playstation	1
Roadblox	1
Skype	1
Snapchat	14
Social Media	2
Text Messages	2
UK	47
Whatsapp	6
Wink	1
Xbox	2
Total	96

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 procedure. 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,

Disclosure Officer
Gloucestershire Constabulary