



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_2023.0946

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 23/10/2023

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0946

On 26/09/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

The aim of this FOI is to find out how many perpetrators of online child sex abuse offences - ie. individuals watching or sharing illegal sexual images of children - are themselves under 18.

I would like to compare data over time to see if there has been an increase in young people coming to the attention of police for this reason.

I would like to know the ages of individuals identified as being associated with the watching or sharing of an indecent image of a child in all the visits carried out by your forces specialist online child sexual abuse/ exploitation team.

These teams have different names in different regions but may be called OCSET (Online Child Sexual Exploitation Team) or Polit (Paedophile Online Investigation Team) or similar.

The data is usually sent from the NCA to the regional police team for them to follow through with a home visit.

Please can you send me

A breakdown by year of how many individuals in total were identified as a perpetrator in connection with an indecent image of a child

And

How many of these individuals were under 18

if possible a further breakdown by individual age of all those under 18.

- In the year 2023 so far - January to September
- January - December 2020
- January - December 2019
- January - December 2018

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.

On review of the above, we have identified the following as the request for information:
A breakdown by year of how many individuals in total were identified as a perpetrator in connection with an indecent image of a child

And

How many of these individuals were under 18

if possible a further breakdown by individual age of all those under 18.

- In the year 2023 so far - January to September
- January - December 2020
- January - December 2019
- January - December 2018

A search of Gloucestershire Constabulary's Crime Recording System has been conducted to identify all substantiated crimes recorded between 01/01/2018 and 30/09/2023 where the following offences have been recorded:

- Take/ make / distribute indecent photographs or pseudo- photographs, of children
- Possession of an indecent or pseudo indecent photo of a child

From the results we are able to filter the data for the information requested.

Year	Total No. of Suspects
2018	160
2019	264
2020	237

2021	394
2022	548
2023	482
Total	2085

Age 0 - 17 only	Year						Total
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
4	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
5	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
6	0	0	2	1	0	4	7
7	0	1	0	3	3	0	7
8	0	0	2	5	5	5	17
9	0	0	1	2	8	1	12
10	1	0	2	3	3	6	15
11	1	2	2	7	19	8	39
12	4	27	13	17	43	52	156
13	23	33	22	39	47	51	215
14	18	25	18	51	67	68	247
15	13	31	24	48	52	53	221
16	12	14	21	26	43	55	171
17	8	8	11	23	24	32	106
Total	80	141	119	226	315	335	1216

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.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following means:

Website - <https://ico.org.uk/>

Call their helpline - 0303 123 1113

Email - casework@ico.org.uk

Post –

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer
Gloucestershire Constabulary