



Your reference: N/A

Our reference: FOI\_24\_0514

E-mail: FOI  
@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 10/06/2024

Dear

**Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI\_24\_0514**

On 10/05/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

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 2023 until (and including) March 31st, 2024.
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 (i.e. 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 2023 , until (and including) March 31st 2024.

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. Following receipt of your request, I can confirm that a search has been conducted of the Crime Recording System for offences under Section 15A of the Sexual offences Act 2003, 071/17 – Sexual Communications with a child recorded from 01/04/2023 – 31/03/2024, this has returned 99 records.

2. The recorded age groups and gender of the victims

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

| Age Group   | Total |
|-------------|-------|
| 0 - 11      | 19    |
| 12 - 15     | 62    |
| 16 and over | 17    |
| Unknown     | 1     |
| Total       | 99    |

| Gender | Total |
|--------|-------|
| F      | 82    |
| M      | 15    |
| U      | 2     |
| Total  | 99    |

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

| Platform               | Total |
|------------------------|-------|
| Chatspin               | 4     |
| Discord                | 1     |
| Email                  | 1     |
| Facebook               | 1     |
| Facebook Messenger     | 2     |
| Facetime Chat          | 1     |
| Roblox                 | 1     |
| Snapchat               | 26    |
| Talk to a Stranger.com | 1     |
| TikTok                 | 3     |
| Twitch                 | 1     |
| Unknown                | 55    |
| Whatsapp               | 2     |
| Xbox                   | 1     |
| Zepeto                 | 1     |
| Total                  | 101   |

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](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

Post –

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House

Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer  
Gloucestershire Constabulary