



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_0557

E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 25/06/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0557

On 30/05/2025 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 2024 until (and including) March 31st, 2025.
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. Where possible I would like to know the total number of perpetrators linked to these offences.
5. 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 2024 , until (and including) March 31st 2025.
6. How many offences, where the means of communication was known, took place on private messaging services?

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 has been conducted to identify information in answer to your request.

Please see the results below.

Q1. The total number of crime records from 01/04/2024 to 31/03/2024, where the offence of Engage in sexual communication with a child is recorded is 96.

Q2. The results have been broken down by the recorded age of the victim. Please note that due to recording practices there are some anomalies within the data.

Age Group	Total
11 and under	15
12 to 15	41
16 and over	5
Not Recorded	2
Total	63

Gender	Total
Female	43
Male	18
Not Recorded	2
Total	63

Q3. The age of the youngest victim is recorded as 6years old. The gender is recorded as female.

Q4. There are a total of 51 offenders recorded. Please note that this is a count of individual people not crimes, and any one individual can be recorded on multiple crime records. There are also records where the offender is not known.

Q5 & 6. Please see the table below for the breakdown of the forms of communication. This has been compiled following a manual review of the MO freetext of each crime record. Please note that the total number of platforms used will differ to the total number of crime records as there are occasions where more than one platform has been recorded in the MO.

Platform	Total
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ChatIB	1
Discord	4
Facebook	5
FB Messenger	2
Grinder	1
iHappy	1
iMessage	1
Instagram	1
In person	5
Kik	5
Meetme	1
My Yearbook	1
Not recorded	35
Ome.tv	2
Roblox	1
Snapchat	24
Social Media - unspecified	2
Text message	1
Tik Tok	3
Tumblr	1
Whatsapp	6
Wizz	1
Xbox	3
Y99	1
Total	108

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