| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1741  Responded to: xx July 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## This is a request for the statistics relating to the question below locally to Tayside, nationally to Scotland and the United Kingdom’s.

I must first advise you that the response below relates only to Police Scotland.

Information relating to other areas of the United Kingdom are not held and Section 17, Information Not Held applies.

**1.Between 2019 & 2024 all dates included how many children & youths aged 13 to 21 were groomed and trafficked by organised crime local and national in Tayside that resulted in convictions.**

**2. Between 2019 & 2024 all dates included how many convictions were made exclusively for grooming and trafficking of children by organised crime in Tayside ?**

The role of Police Scotland is to investigate the circumstances and where sufficient evidence exists to then report the matter to the relevant Procurator Fiscal. It is a matter for the Procurator Fiscal to decide on and to progress any prosecution through the courts. The disposal in relation to cases reported to the Procurator Fiscal is not routinely passed to the police, therefore, the Force do not hold the information requested in relation to convictions.

As such section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 applies: notice that information is not held.

By way of assistance the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscals Service may be able to assist you with further information, via <http://www.copfs.gov.uk/>

**3. What are the statistics for children and youth being groomed and trafficked locally & nationally by organised crime ? In Tayside ? In Scotland ? Between 2018 / 2024.**

***Note: In this instance Grooming is related too and includes sexual offences & violence , drug offences and related crimes. Trafficking related to all criminal offences that relate to organised crime local & national.***

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support.

For clarity the data provided below has been sourced from NRMs submitted by Police Scotland officers and does not include data from other potential national sources - for more detailed information you may wish to contact the Single Competent Authority within the Home Office.

Table 1: NRMs submitted by Police Scotland 2018 – 2024 (to date)

Children and youths aged 13 to 21, subject to exploitation in the UK

| **Area** | **2024\*** | **2023** | **2022** | **2021** | **2020** | **2019** | **2018** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Tayside** | 1 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 1 |
| **Scotland** | 85 | 124 | 82 | 40 | 45 | 34 | 26 |

\* Correct at 19 July 2024

**4. How many crimes have been recorded against children and youth between 2019 / 2024 all dates included that were committed exclusively by those known to be connected to / or organised crime ?**

Having considered this question in terms of the Act, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

By way of explanation, the parameters of the question are so wide that the level of detail across all crimes cannot be reliably extracted from our recording systems. Any manual exercise to do so would far exceed the cost limitations of the Act.

**5. How many knife crimes have been committed against children in Tayside between 2019 / 2024 ? all dates included.**

Having considered this question in terms of the Act, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, for the reasons stated above.

By way of explanation, each relevant crime report would have to be read to extract the age of the victim to determine whether it is captured by the terms of this request.

To illustrate a sample of the Tayside data for Q4 of 2023/24 alone returned 711 bladed instrument offences, confirming there is no means by which the request could be refined to bring it within the cost limits of the Act.

If you require any further assistance please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.