| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-0092  Responded to: 04 April 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1) Since 2019 to date (inclusive), the number of recorded rapes with alleged victims under the age of 18

## 2) Since 2019 to date (inclusive), the number of detected rapes with alleged victims under the age of 18

In response to the two questions above, unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

By way of explanation, prior to the introduction of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 which came into force in 2010, rapes and sexual assaults regardless of age or gender of victim were classified under the same offence.  Where a historic offence that pre-dates the introduction of this legislation was reported *after*the legislation coming into force, it will still be recorded in terms of the classification code relevant to the period - ie with no age/gender marker.  For example, if male reported to the police in 2024 that they had been raped as a 14-year-old child in 2005, the crime would be recorded as *rape*as opposed to *rape of a male (13-15).​*

Additionally, the age thresholds identified within the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009, are categorised as <13, 13-15, and 16+, this means to that provide offences where the victim is under the age of 18, each offence recorded within 16+ category would need to be manually assessed to determine the age of the victim. This is an exercise that would greatly exceed the cost threshold set out within the Act.

To be of assistance, please see the table below with figures noted withing the relevant categories.

Please note the caveats at the bottom of the table.

Rape - Recorded and Detected crimes

By financial year (April to March): 2019/20 to 2024/251

| **Crime classification** | **2019/2020** | **2020/2021** | **2021/2022** | **2022/2023** | **2023/2024** | **2024/2025 1** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Recorded crimes2*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Rape : Total** | **2241** | **2225** | **2411** | **2424** | **2367** | **2469** |
| Rape (common law, pre SOSA 2009) | 435 | 403 | 329 | 287 | 265 | 283 |
| Rape – M (16+) | 47 | 36 | 55 | 58 | 56 | 65 |
| Rape – F (16+) | 1334 | 1364 | 1536 | 1593 | 1622 | 1752 |
| Rape – M (13-15) | 22 | 16 | 17 | 19 | 10 | 8 |
| Rape – F (13-15) | 254 | 235 | 304 | 294 | 262 | 227 |
| Rape – M (< 13) | 44 | 47 | 29 | 28 | 33 | 35 |
| Rape – F (< 13) | 105 | 124 | 141 | 145 | 119 | 99 |

| **Crime Classification** | **2019/2020** | **2020/2021** | **2021/2022** | **2022/2023** | **2023/2024** | **2024/2025 1** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Detected crimes3*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Rape : Total** | **1235** | **1274** | **1297** | **1286** | **1117** | **946** |
| Rape (common law, pre SOSA 2009) | 233 | 217 | 161 | 162 | 115 | 107 |
| Rape – M (16+) | 27 | 12 | 24 | 21 | 18 | 17 |
| Rape – F (16+) | 728 | 790 | 843 | 829 | 756 | 669 |
| Rape – M (13-15) | 18 | 11 | 7 | 9 | 9 | 5 |
| Rape – F (13-15) | 151 | 149 | 173 | 181 | 148 | 98 |
| Rape – M (< 13) | 29 | 28 | 15 | 17 | 11 | 12 |
| Rape – F (< 13) | 49 | 67 | 74 | 67 | 60 | 38 |

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 28 March 2025.

1 Please note that data for the financial year 2024/25 contains only 11 months (April to February) and is not directly comparable to the previous full financial years. 2,3 Recorded crime was extracted using the crime's raised date and by using SGJD codes 201400 to 201406 (Rape). Detected crimes, are a subset of the recorded crime data, where the crime has been detected.

## 3) Since 2019 to date (inclusive), the ethnicity breakdown of suspects of detected rapes with alleged victims under the age of 18. Please provide this as either a figure (e.g. White British: 1), or as a percentage figure of the total (e.g. White British: 80%)

## 4) Since 2019 to date (inclusive), the ethnicity breakdown of charged individuals of detected rapes with alleged victims under the age of 18. Please provide this as either a figure (e.g. White British: 1), or as a percentage figure of the total (e.g. White British: 80%)

Due to modernisation of IT systems, it is possible to extract the required data for the year 2024 only, however to provide data for the for the additional time period, a manual assessment of records would need to be undertaken to identify the ethnicity, if recorded, of any accused person as such, I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

## 5) Since 2019 to date (inclusive), the number of rape charges/indictiments with alleged victims under the age of 18 issued by the COPFS. 6) Since 2019 to date (inclusive), the breakdown of convictions, acquittals, and/or other disposals of those charged with rape with victims under the age of 18

In response to the two questions above, Police Scotland does not hold criminal conviction/ prosecution data and section 17 of the Act therefore applies. You may wish to contact the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) and/ or the Scottish Courts Service.

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](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) 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.