| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1639  Responded to: 22nd July 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1. Please can you tell me the number of recorded offences of Communicating Indecently with a Child (s.24 and s.34 of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009) recorded from (and including) April 1st 2023 until (and including) March 31st, 2024.

I can confirm that between April 1st 2023 and March 31st 2024 (inclusive) there are 672 recorded offences of Communicating Indecently with a Child (s.24 and s.34 of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009).

## 2. Please could you break it down into the two age groups (under 13 and 13-15) and each age group by gender.

Unfortunately, I estimate that determining a breakdown as per gender 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 the only way to provide you with this information in an accurate and consistent manner would be to manually examine each of the 672 recorded cases to extract and note the gender. This is an exercise which would clearly exceed the cost limitations of the Act.

I am however able to provide a breakdown based on the two age groups requested.

Please see the table below.

Table 1 provides total numbers of recorded offences of Communicating Indecently with a Child by age group for the period April 1st 2023 and March 31st 2024 (inclusive). Please note the caveats below the table.

Table 1

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| **Offence** | **Total** |
| Communicate Indecently with young child (under 13) | 315 |
| Communicate Indecently with older child (over 13) | 357 |

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| 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 a 15th July 2024. |
| 1. The data was extracted using the crime's raised date and by using SGJD codes  Communicating indecently with young child (under 13) - 201622 Communicate indecently older child (13-15) - 201636 |

## 3. If possible, please can you tell me the age and gender of the youngest victim.

Again, I estimate that determining this information 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 the only way to provide you with this information in an accurate and consistent manner would be to manually examine each of the recorded cases to find relvence to gender and age. Given the numbers involved, this is an exercise which would exceed the cost limitations 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.