| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-1977Responded to: xx August 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

I’m writing to ask if you can provide data on the total number of crimes classed as Sexual Offences or Violence Against the Person where the victim is a female under the age of 25, for latest complete year where this data is available, by Local Authority or Police Division in Scotland.

In response to this question, 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, we have no means of searching sexual/violent crime reports based on the sex/age of the victim at the time of the offence and this is further complicated by the fact that sexual offences in particular can often have a date range rather than specific committed date.  Even for one year this would mean examining thousands of reports, an exercise which would far exceed the cost limitations of the Act.

If it would be of assistance there are a small number of sexual crime classifications which include the sex/ age range of the victim, but only so far as females aged 0-15.  This would not cover all sexual offending however - and there is no equivalent for violent offences.  If this data, for the relevant offences for females aged 0-15, would be of interest, please let us know.

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 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 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.