| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-3037  Responded to: xx December 2024 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## a) The total number of recorded offences of indecent images (still or moving) of children and prohibited images of children for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

Please be advised that recorded and detected crime statistics are publicly available.

As such, in terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at Section 25(1) of the Act - information otherwise accessible:

*“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under Section 1(1) is exempt information”*

The information you are seeking is available on the Police Scotland website, via the following link: [How we are performing - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/) using [Management Information Force Report Quarter 4 2023/24](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/hb2h5esf/force-area-quarter-accessibility-quarter-4-april-to-march-2024.xlsx) - Tab 3.

## b) The number of recorded offences which related to pseudo images of children.

## c) The total number of recorded offences where an Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated child abuse image was detected.

## d) For each offence for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 please break it down by the platform used to commit the offence where known using the following key word search:  Snapchat, Facebook/Messenger, Instagram, WhatsApp, X/Twitter, Kik, TikTok, YouTube, Discord, Skype, Facetime, Roblox, Oculus, VR, Metaverse, Only Fans, Signal, iCloud, iMessage, Dropbox, Mega, Patreon, other social media or messaging site, other cloud storage site and online gaming.

To avoid repetition Qs b) to d) have been answered together.

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 there are no search markers for the methodology used by perpetrators of any crime, e.g. the use of pseudo images, AI, social media platform etc..

The only way to collate this information is to manually search each report to determine relevance. This is clearly an exercise that would far exceed the cost threshold set out within 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.