| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-3223Responded to: 16 January 2024 |
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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 2022 to 31 March 2023.

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. Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

(a) states that it holds the information,

(b) states that it is claiming an exemption,

(c) specifies the exemption in question and

(d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

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: [Performance Report Quarter 4 2022/23](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/svplwv3q/management-information-force-report-quarter-4-2022-23.xlsx) – tab ‘data 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 2022 to 31 March 2023 please can you 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, iMessgae, Dropbox, Mega, Patreon, other social media or messaging site, other cloud storage site and online gaming.

Having considered these questions 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 only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to manually examine each of the 765 reports of Taking, distribution, possession of indecent photos of children for relevance to your request. I consider that even at a conservative estimate of 4 minutes per report, this would equate to a minimum of 51 hours to research and would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

## e) The number of recorded offences of which contained a cyber-flag.

In response to this question, I can advise you that Section 12(1) would again apply. To explain, there are no relevant markers which allow the automatic retrieval of this level of information.

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.