| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0706  Responded to: 28 March 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**In 2008 the Home Office issued a circular to all police forces in the UK.**

**The subject concerned how constabularies were expected to respond to the issue of child sex exploitation.**

**The circular was also sent to the then Director of Prosecutions, Nazir Afzal.**

**In 2018 Nazir Afzal went public about the circular, and an interview is available on u-tube.**

**Released by Nazir Afzal Former Chief Prosecutor for Northwest England**

***“…. In 2008 the Home Office sent a circular to all police forces…***

***Saying “as far as these young girls who are being exploited in towns and cities, we believe they have made an informed choice about their sexual behaviour, and therefore it is not for you Police Officers to get involved in”***

**Request for information: Please provide:-**

## 1 a copy of the circular from the Home Office ( signed by the Home Office originator )2 copies of any replies and further communications on the issue

## 3 orders to constabulary personnel consequent upon receipt of the Home office directive

## 4 minutes of meetings on the issue

## 5 documented effects of the circular on operations relating to the issue

## 6 you may also wish to voluntarily disclose additional material on this issue.

In response to your request I can advise you that this circular has been the subject of previous FOI requests and we have been unable to source a copy. As such, Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 is therefore applied – information not held.

By way of assistance, you may wish to contact the Home Office themselves via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office>

Or, view the following link form The National Archives:

<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130125102358/http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/corporate-publications-strategy/home-office-circulars/circulars-2008/>

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.