| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-2520Responded to: 20th October 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Please confirm in the last three years how many investigations relating to child sexting, involving alleged offenders aged 18 and under, were carried out by your Force

## Please specify how many people were charged following these investigations, and the age (at time of offence) for those who were charged.

## When I refer to sexting I am seeking to secure data on cases which relate to the distribution of an indecent photograph / pseudo-photograph of a child.

## The time period I am seeking data on is between 2019-2022.

Having considered your request in terms of the above 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 crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no facility whereby the age of the accused at the time of offence can be easily extracted.

All crime reports recorded for this offence during the time period specified would have to be individually examined to calculate and note the age of the Accused at the time of the offence.

As illustrated by our published [crime statistics](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/), this would involve carrying out case by case assessment of a vast number of reports - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

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.