| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-1287Responded to: 05 June 2023 |
| --- | --- |

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

## The number of cases of revenge porn (or intimate image abuse, or any other term by which it is categorised) reported to police annually since 2017. Please provide this number for each year since 2017 broken down by police division.

## Of these cases a breakdown into cases of threats to reveal an intimate image and cases where an intimate image was made public without consent. Please provide these numbers for each year since 2017 broken down by police division.

In response to these questions, recorded and detected offences are shown at the end of this letter.

Please be advised that Section 2 of the Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016 came into effect on 3rd July 2017. As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that information prior to this date is not held by Police Scotland.

## Of these reported cases of revenge porn the gender of those who reported the cases as well as, where possible, the gender of the purported perpetrator. Please provide this number for each year since 2017.

Having considered this question 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 the gender of accused and complainer would to manually examine each and every detected crime report shown in the table at the end of this letter. Given volume this is an exercise which would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

## Of all reported cases of revenge porn the number of which were formally charged under the Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016. Please provide this number for each year since 2017 broken down by police division.

In response to this question, I can advise you that Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has again been applied. To explain, offences are recorded as either undetected or detected, where an accused has been identified and there exists a sufficiency of evidence under Scots Law to justify consideration of criminal proceedings.

There is however no mandatory recording process in relation to individuals being charged. There can be instances where an offender may be subject of a report to the Procurator Fiscal without ever having been charged. Therefore as explained above each detected crime report would have to be examined and subsequently crossed referred with the relevant Standard Prosecution Report to establish whether an accused has been formally charged.

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.

**Recorded** Selected Crimes, Police Scotland, Period: 1st January 2017 - 30th April 2023, Calendar Years

| **Division** | **Crime/Offence** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| North East | Threatening to disclose an intimate image | 13 | 18 | 38 | 29 | 46 | 49 | 14 |
| Disclosure of an intimate image | 22 | 37 | 36 | 50 | 70 | 60 | 18 |
| Tayside | Threatening to disclose an intimate image | 10 | 18 | 33 | 27 | 27 | 21 | 3 |
| Disclosure of an intimate image | 9 | 25 | 71 | 37 | 37 | 59 | 15 |
| Highland and Islands | Threatening to disclose an intimate image | 3 | 11 | 12 | 10 | 15 | 9 | 4 |
| Disclosure of an intimate image | 5 | 20 | 16 | 20 | 20 | 24 | 9 |
| Forth Valley | Threatening to disclose an intimate image | 7 | 17 | 16 | 26 | 20 | 20 | 4 |
| Disclosure of an intimate image | 5 | 24 | 32 | 22 | 24 | 20 | 8 |
| Edinburgh | Threatening to disclose an intimate image | 7 | 31 | 32 | 26 | 31 | 28 | 7 |
| Disclosure of an intimate image | 6 | 28 | 30 | 34 | 32 | 32 | 15 |
| Lothian and Borders | Threatening to disclose an intimate image | 13 | 17 | 19 | 43 | 38 | 39 | 9 |
| Disclosure of an intimate image | 12 | 31 | 30 | 46 | 52 | 41 | 19 |
| Fife | Threatening to disclose an intimate image | 10 | 23 | 18 | 24 | 28 | 27 | 7 |
| Disclosure of an intimate image | 13 | 18 | 30 | 51 | 55 | 65 | 16 |
| Greater Glasgow | Threatening to disclose an intimate image | 21 | 51 | 35 | 60 | 46 | 49 | 12 |
| Disclosure of an intimate image | 24 | 58 | 56 | 50 | 66 | 52 | 22 |
| Ayrshire | Threatening to disclose an intimate image | 4 | 7 | 12 | 16 | 14 | 14 | 6 |
| Disclosure of an intimate image | 11 | 15 | 20 | 19 | 22 | 30 | 16 |
| Lanarkshire | Threatening to disclose an intimate image | 12 | 32 | 30 | 43 | 46 | 48 | 20 |
| Disclosure of an intimate image | 16 | 36 | 41 | 67 | 55 | 69 | 32 |
| Argyll and West Dunbartonshire | Threatening to disclose an intimate image | 2 | 3 | 10 | 12 | 12 | 6 | 2 |
| Disclosure of an intimate image | 1 | 5 | 13 | 19 | 20 | 8 | 3 |
| Renfrewshire and Inverclyde | Threatening to disclose an intimate image | 7 | 8 | 9 | 11 | 14 | 12 | 7 |
| Disclosure of an intimate image | 7 | 13 | 6 | 5 | 10 | 26 | 13 |
| Dumfries and Galloway | Threatening to disclose an intimate image | 1 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 14 | 20 | 1 |
| Disclosure of an intimate image | 5 | 13 | 9 | 15 | 26 | 21 | 7 |
| **Total** |  | **246** | **567** | **661** | **768** | **840** | **849** | **289** |

**Detected** Selected Crimes, Police Scotland, Period: 1st January 2017 - 30th April 2023, Calendar Years

| **Division** | **Crime/Offence** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| North East | Threatening to disclose an intimate image | 4 | 7 | 9 | 10 | 12 | 13 | 3 |
| Disclosure of an intimate image | 6 | 19 | 18 | 19 | 23 | 26 | 8 |
| Tayside | Threatening to disclose an intimate image | 5 | 13 | 9 | 6 | 12 | 7 | 1 |
| Disclosure of an intimate image | 2 | 13 | 47 | 19 | 17 | 24 | 6 |
| Highland and Islands | Threatening to disclose an intimate image | 1 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| Disclosure of an intimate image | 3 | 6 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 6 |
| Forth Valley | Threatening to disclose an intimate image | 0 | 11 | 6 | 16 | 7 | 10 | 2 |
| Disclosure of an intimate image | 2 | 9 | 12 | 13 | 12 | 6 | 3 |
| Edinburgh | Threatening to disclose an intimate image | 1 | 12 | 15 | 12 | 7 | 15 | 0 |
| Disclosure of an intimate image | 3 | 19 | 11 | 12 | 9 | 17 | 4 |
| Lothian and Borders | Threatening to disclose an intimate image | 8 | 8 | 8 | 18 | 16 | 13 | 4 |
| Disclosure of an intimate image | 6 | 12 | 13 | 25 | 18 | 16 | 8 |
| Fife | Threatening to disclose an intimate image | 5 | 9 | 9 | 14 | 17 | 16 | 2 |
| Disclosure of an intimate image | 8 | 12 | 17 | 31 | 25 | 30 | 8 |
| Greater Glasgow | Threatening to disclose an intimate image | 8 | 20 | 8 | 19 | 15 | 22 | 8 |
| Disclosure of an intimate image | 11 | 25 | 27 | 20 | 17 | 19 | 3 |
| Ayrshire | Threatening to disclose an intimate image | 2 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 1 |
| Disclosure of an intimate image | 6 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 19 | 9 |
| Lanarkshire | Threatening to disclose an intimate image | 4 | 10 | 16 | 19 | 18 | 18 | 6 |
| Disclosure of an intimate image | 8 | 14 | 20 | 30 | 34 | 22 | 11 |
| Argyll and West Dunbartonshire | Threatening to disclose an intimate image | 1 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Disclosure of an intimate image | 0 | 2 | 7 | 10 | 11 | 3 | 1 |
| Renfrewshire and Inverclyde | Threatening to disclose an intimate image | 3 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 0 |
| Disclosure of an intimate image | 2 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 3 |
| Dumfries and Galloway | Threatening to disclose an intimate image | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 1 |
| Disclosure of an intimate image | 1 | 9 | 4 | 10 | 12 | 9 | 4 |
| **Total** |  | **101** | **266** | **299** | **345** | **327** | **346** | **104** |

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 26th May 2023