| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2020  Responded to: 01 September 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## For the years 2020, 2021 and 2022 and 2023 to date:

## • How many sexual offences involved a victim under 18?

## • How many offences recorded the suspect as a parent?

## • How many offences recorded the suspect as a sibling?

## • What was the breakdown of gender for victim/suspect?

## • What was the breakdown of age for victim/suspect?

Having considered your request 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, there are a number of issues which make the gathering of this data complex.  First of all, we are unable to provide data within cost on all sexual offences with a victim under 18.  There are a number of crime classifications which include the victim's age and gender, and we could provide high level data on those, but they only represent a proportion of sexual offences.  For all others, the only way to ascertain the age of the victim at the time of the offence is to calculate it on a case by case basis for all crimes based on their date of birth and the committed date.  This can be additionally complex, particularly for sexual offences where committed can be a date range as opposed to a singular date.  Furthermore, we have no searchable markers etc on our systems that indicate the relationship between the victim and accused, meaning all offences would have to be individually reviewed and the details extracted and noted.  The same is true for the gender and age of the accused.  If you would like high level recorded/deteted crime data on those sexual offences where the classification includes the age/ sex of the victim, please let us know.

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.