| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1253  Responded to: 4 June 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## On the forces website is or was written the quoted below;

## " Men aged 18 and above are most likely to sexually abuse children. The behavior can often escalate from frequent use, over long periods of time, of online legal pornography to barely legal or extreme types of pornography and the viewing of illegal sexual images of children. "

## Parts of that claim are scientifically false at worst or dubious at best.

## I would therefore request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act of 2002 the following:

## 1. All information the force holds that conclusively proves that all men aged 18+ are most likely to sexually abuse children.

## 2. All information the force holds that conclusively proves that sexual offences against children arise from the legal behavior of viewing adult pornography (that is the viewing of legal pornographic videos or pictures of those 18+) of any gender or sexuality but particularly LGBT pornography.

## 3. All information the force holds that conclusively proves what "Barely legal" pornography is in comparison to legal pornography.

I attach a copy of a document titled – *The Faithfull Papers, Deterring online child sexual abuse and exploitation: lessons from seven years of campaigning*, research compiled by the Lucy Faithfull Foundation (formerly Stop It Now Scotland), a UK wide charity dedicated solely to preventing child sexual abuse.

This formed a large part of the basis of our research, strategy and insight around the 2023 Child Sexual Abuse campaign.  Police Scotland worked in partnership with Lucy Faithfull Foundation, also interviewing offenders to provide insight into the campaign.

There are various references throughout the paper of escalating use of pornography preceding sexual offending.  The term “barely legal” is a paraphrase from the research source, again pointing towards the escalation of pornography use, including an escalation of the extremity.

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.