| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1193  Responded to: xx June 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I would like to request information about the number of sexual offences recorded in Shetland over the past five years and a breakdown of the age groups affected. I am aware that Police Scotland already publishes figures for sexual crimes, however, I would like to find out more about the ages of the victims and perpetrators. For each year (2020; 2021; 2022; 2023 and 2024) please tell me:

## The number of sexual crimes recorded in Shetland under each category of sexual crime - e.g. sexual assault, rape, attempted rape, threatening to disclose sexual images, other sexual crimes.

In response to your request, Table 1 below details allgroup 2 sexual offences recorded in Shetland for the specified period, broken down by classification. Table 2 details all group 2 detected offences recorded in the same period.

Detected crimes are those where an accused has been identified and there exists a sufficiency of evidence under Scots Law to justify consideration of criminal proceedings.

**Table 1:** **Recorded Group 2 (Sexual) Crimes, Shetland**  
Period: 1st January 2020 - 30th April 2024\* (Calendar Years)

| **Crime/ Offence** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024\*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Rape (common law, pre SOSA 2009) | 4 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Rape - F (16+) | 7 | 10 | 2 | 8 | 2 |
| Rape - F (13-15) | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Rape - F (< 13) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Assault wi Rape - F (16+) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Sexual assault (common law, pre SOSA 2009) | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Sex. Assault by Penetration - M (16+) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Sex. Assault by Penetration - F (16+) | 4 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| Sex. Assault by Penetration - F (13-15) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sexual Assault - M (16+) | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Sexual Assault - F (16+) | 2 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 5 |
| Sexual Assault - F (13-15) | 1 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Sexual Coercion - F (16+) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Coercing a person into being present/ looking at sexual activity | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 0 |
| Communicating indecently | 6 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Sex. Assault by Penetration - F (< 13) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sexual Assault - M (< 13) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sexual Assault - F (< 13) | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Cause to be Present Sex Act/To Look at Sex Image -M&F (< 13) | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Communicate Indecently/Cause see/hear Indec Comm -M&F (< 13) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Voyeurism - M&F (below 13) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Intercourse wi Child - F (13-15)(Consensual) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Penetrative Sex Activity - F (13-15)(Consensual) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Cause to Participate Sex Activity - F (13-15)(Consensual) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Engage while Older Child in Sex Conduct/Consens Sex Cond - F | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cause to be Pres Sex Act/Look at Sex Image-M&F(13-15)(Cons) | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Commun Indecently/Cause see/hear Indec Comm-M&F(13-15)(Cons) | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Voyeurism - M&F (13-15) | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Threatening to disclose an intimate image | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Disclosure of an intimate image | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| Communications Act 2003 (sexual) | 2 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Public indecency | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Sexual exposure | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Voyeurism | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 |
| Conspiracy to commit sexual acts outside the UK | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Taking, distribution, possession etc. of indecent photos of children (from Apr 2011) | 4 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 0 |
| Lewd and Libidinous (from Apr 2011) | 3 | 13 | 3 | 4 | 0 |
| Administering a substance for sexual Purposes | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Possession of extreme pornography | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| **Total** | **55** | **76** | **47** | **54** | **19** |

**Table 2: Detected Group 2 (Sexual) Crimes, Shetland**Period: 1st January 2020 - 30th April 2024\* (Calendar Years)

| **Crime/ Offence** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024\*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Rape (common law, pre SOSA 2009) | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Rape - F (16+) | 6 | 10 | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| Rape - F (13-15) | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rape - F (< 13) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Assault wi Rape - F (16+) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Sexual assault (common law, pre SOSA 2009) | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Sex. Assault by Penetration - F (16+) | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Sexual Assault - M (16+) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sexual Assault - F (16+) | 3 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| Sexual Assault - M (13-15) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sexual Assault - F (13-15) | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Coercing a person into being present/ looking at sexual activity | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Communicating indecently | 7 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Sex. Assault by Penetration - F (< 13) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sexual Assault - F (< 13) | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Cause to be Present Sex Act/To Look at Sex Image -M&F (< 13) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Communicate Indecently/Cause see/hear Indec Comm -M&F (< 13) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Voyeurism - M&F (below 13) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Intercourse wi Child - F (13-15)(Consensual) | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cause to Participate Sex Activity - F (13-15)(Consensual) | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Engage while Older Child in Sex Conduct/Consens Sex Cond - F | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cause to be Pres Sex Act/Look at Sex Image-M&F(13-15)(Cons) | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Commun Indecently/Cause see/hear Indec Comm-M&F(13-15)(Cons) | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Voyeurism - M&F (13-15) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Disclosure of an intimate image | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Communications Act 2003 (sexual) | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Public indecency | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Sexual exposure | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Voyeurism | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Conspiracy to commit sexual acts outside the UK | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Taking, distribution, possession etc. of indecent photos of children (from Apr 2011) | 3 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 0 |
| Lewd and Libidinous (from Apr 2011) | 1 | 10 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| Possession of extreme pornography | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| **Total** | **49** | **55** | **25** | **28** | **11** |

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information.   
Data was extracted from Police Scotland systems and are correct as at 29/05/2024

## For each year and each category of sexual crime, please provide a breakdown of the alleged victim's age, either by age or by age group, depending on how you retain that information. For example, 2019 - three sexual assaults - ages 20, 27, 34. Or one aged 21-25, one aged 26-30, one aged 31-35.

Crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the Scottish Government Justice Department (SGJD) offence classification codes and are not thereafter sub-categorised.

In this instance, the information above includes any relevant offences which contain an age/ gender descriptor in the classification; however, there are also offence classifications which do not.

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 victim can be easily extracted across the period requested.

The only possible way to establish the age of the victims at this time would be to carry out a case by case assessment of each associated crime report based on their date of birth and the committed date.  This is an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

## For each year and each category, please provide a breakdown of the accused's age, either by a specific age or by age group, depending on how you retain that information.

Again, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested at question 3, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

The only way to establish the age of the accused in *any* offence, is to read each individual associated crime report, an exercise which would far exceed the £600 cost limitation of the Act.

1. **For each year and each category, please provide a breakdown of the alleged victim's sex - male, female or any other recorded category.**
2. **For each year and each category, please provide a breakdown of the accused's sex - male, female, or any other recorded category.**

Having considered your request at questions 4 & 5 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.

To explain, we have no searchable markers etc on our systems that would allow us to report the gender of the victim or the accused across the entire period requested.

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.

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.