

22 August 2024

FOI Ref 17070

Request - You asked us the following:

1. Since its implementation into law in 2017, please state how many people have been charged by your force with the offence of sexual communication with a child (Section 67, Serious Crime Act 2015)
2. Of the people charged, how many of them have been convicted?
3. How many of the offences recorded were initiated online and how many offline?

We received your request on 22/07/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Please find below our response.

Staffordshire Police holds the following requested information.

1. Since its implementation into law in 2017, please state how many people have been charged by your force with the offence of sexual communication with a child (Section 67, Serious Crime Act 2015) – **Information held.**
2. Of the people charged, how many of them have been convicted? – **No information held.**
3. How many of the offences recorded were initiated online and how many offline? – **Information held.**

Staffordshire Police discloses/withholds the following information.

1. Since its implementation into law in 2017, please state how many people have been charged by your force with the offence of sexual communication with a child (Section 67, Serious Crime Act 2015) – **Disclosed - 100.**
2. Of the people charged, how many of them have been convicted? – **No information held.**

Please note, Staffordshire Police does not hold conviction data.

3. How many of the offences recorded were initiated online and how many offline? – **Disclosed – 302 online and 327 offline. This data has been extracted for our Crime/Occurrence database where an online flag has been applied to the occurrence, providing an option of either 'yes' or 'no'.**

Please note that this data has been provided to the best of our ability, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols and systems/software. Additional offences may have been recorded during these timescales but are awaiting finalisation and input onto these systems and would not be present within this dataset.

Every effort is made to ensure that the data presented is accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that this has been extracted from multiple sources, developed for specific policing purposes, for which data extraction methods have not been specifically designed to directly correlate with the terminology of this request. Therefore, the data presented is subject to the inaccuracies and idiosyncrasies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

As a consequence, care should be taken in the interpretation and presentation of this data, so as to not misrepresent the whole or any part of the data disclosed.

Advice and assistance

Section 16 of the Act places an obligation upon the Authority to provide advice and assistance, in order to comply with this obligation please see below.

With regards to Question 2, Staffordshire Police does not hold conviction data. You may wish to contact the Crown Prosecution Service, should you still require this information.

Next steps

You can ask us to review our response.

If you would like us to carry out a review of our response, please let us know within two months of the date of receipt of this email, review requests should be addressed to:

foi@staffordshire.police.uk

Or by Post to:

Central Disclosure Unit
Staffordshire Police HQ
PO Box 3167
Stafford
ST16 9JZ

Please remember to quote the reference number in any future communications.

Freedom of Information
Central Disclosure Unit