

6 November 2024

FOI Ref 17414

Request - You asked us the following:

Please could you provide me with the number of crimes reported that include:

1. Harassment (with online/ cyber flag OR where key words “online gaming”, “online dating”, “WhatsApp”, “Tiktok”, “Instagram”, “snapchat” are used) where the victim is under 18.
2. Disclosure of private sexual photographs and videos with intent to cause distress (with a cyber flag OR where key words “online gaming”, “online dating”, “WhatsApp”, “Tiktok”, “Instagram”, “snapchat” are used) where the victim is under 18.
3. Child sexual exploitation (with an online/cyber flag) where the victim is under 18.

Please provide annual figures for July 2021- July 2022, July 2022- July 2023, July 2023- July 2024. If possible please provide the age of the youngest child involved in the reported crimes above.

We received your request on 29/10/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Staffordshire Police’s response to your enquiry is as follows:

Staffordshire Police holds the requested information.

- Please could you provide me with the number of crimes reported that include:
- 1. Harassment (with online/ cyber flag OR where key words “online gaming”, “online dating”, “WhatsApp”, “Tiktok”, “Instagram”, “snapchat” are used) where the victim is under 18.
- 2. Disclosure of private sexual photographs and videos with intent to cause distress (with a cyber flag OR where key words “online gaming”, “online dating”, “WhatsApp”, “Tiktok”, “Instagram”, “snapchat” are used) where the victim is under 18.
- 3. Child sexual exploitation (with an online/cyber flag) where the victim is under 18.

Please provide annual figures for July 2021- July 2022, July 2022- July 2023, July 2023- July 2024. If possible please provide the age of the youngest child involved in the reported crimes above.

Please see the accompanying file titled ‘FOI 17414 Cyber Crimes Data’.

Please be advised that the online flag has been used for the above offences and all victims are aged under 18. The time frames for the questions are from 1st July 2021 to 30th June 2022, 1st July 2022 to 30th June 2023 and 1st July 2023 to 31st July 2024.

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.

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