

Our ref: 01/FOI/24/012614/F

Please quote our reference  
number when responding

Wednesday, 05 June 2024

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/012614/F**

I write in connection with your request for information dated 10/05/2024, I note you seek access to the following information:

1. Please tell me the number of recorded offences under s.15A of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, sexual communication with a child, (Home Office recording code 71/17) recorded from (and including) April 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 until (and including) March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.
2. Where possible I would like to know the age and gender of the victim, broken down into age groups: 11 and under, 12-15, 16 and over.
3. Please tell me the age and gender of the youngest victim.
4. Please tell me all the forms of communication (i.e. which social media or messaging platform such as WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Kik, TikTok etc.) that have been recorded as having been used in connection with recorded offences under s.15A of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, sexual communication with a child, from (and including) April 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 , until (and including) March 31<sup>st</sup> 2024.

I suggest a table as follows:

| Total number of offences | Number of female victims |  | Number of male victims |  | Age and gender of the youngest victim | Method of communication used | Number of times each method was used |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|                          | 11 and under             |  | 11 and under           |  |                                       |                              |                                      |
|                          | 12-15                    |  | 12-15                  |  |                                       |                              |                                      |
|                          | 16 and over              |  | 16 and over            |  |                                       |                              |                                      |

## **Result of Searches**

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by Greater Manchester Police.

### **Caveats**

In July 2019, GMP implemented one of the largest IT infrastructure changes in UK policing. The systems are in continual development and the data provided for this request is what the systems currently hold.

- Data has been provided for the period 01/04/2023 - 31/03/2024.
- Details of HO Code as in the table below:

| <b>Class</b>    | <b>Sub Class</b>      | <b>Offence Category</b> | <b>Offence</b>                              | <b>Full HO Code</b> |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Sexual Offences | Other sexual offences | 88A Sexual Grooming     | Engage in sexual communication with a child | <b>071/17</b>       |

- The date used is the crime created date and not the crime committed date.
- Where possible duplicates have been removed.

Please note - The information below is held by GMP but I am not obliged to provide it as an exemption applies.

- The data marked 'X'
- The age and gender of the youngest victim
- Combined data of age and social platforms

The information has been exempted from disclosure under **Section 40(2) Personal Information** – this information constitutes personal data of an identifiable living individual, and to disclose this information would breach the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data is defined by Section 1 of the Data Protection Act 1998 and means data that relates to an individual who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data.

Please see remainder of the requested information below.

| <b>Total 071/17 Offences Recorded</b> | <b>Female Victims</b> | <b>Count</b> | <b>Male Victims</b> | <b>Count</b> | <b>Unknown</b> |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 466                                   | 11 Years & Under      | 78           | 11 Years & Under    | X            | 109            |
|                                       | 12 - 15 Years         | 192          | 12 - 15 Years       | 35           |                |
|                                       | 16+ Years             | 16           | 16+ Years           | X            |                |

| <b>Social Platforms Used</b> | <b>Volume</b> |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Discord                      | 7             |
| Facebook                     | 12            |
| Google Chat                  | X             |
| Grindr                       | X             |
| imessage                     | X             |
| Instagram                    | 12            |
| Kik                          | 12            |
| Omegle                       | 9             |
| PS Chat                      | X             |
| Skype                        | X             |
| Snapchat                     | 139           |
| Tik Tok                      | 7             |
| Whatsapp                     | 29            |
| X-Box Live                   | X             |
| Unknown                      | 230           |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>466</b>    |