

25 November 2019

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20192603

REQUEST

In each of the last five years, how many sexual offences have been reported to your force where both the alleged perpetrator and the alleged victim were under the age of 18?

Please provide information on how many of these reports resulted in further police action.

Could you provide a breakdown for how many offences were reported where the alleged perpetrator was 11 or younger?

Can you also provide information on:

How many of the total reported sexual offences occurred on school premises?

For the reports of sexual offences occurring on school premises, could you please provide a breakdown of the types of alleged offences recorded (e.g. sexual assault, rape etc).

RESPONSE

I approached our Crime Management Data Returns Officer for assistance with your request. The CMS system and Connect System is used to record complaints or allegations of those matters, which the Home Office specify should be recorded as 'crimes'.

She conducted a search of the two crime management systems. (CMS - our legacy system which provides data up to 4th December 2017 and our new CONNECT system which records crimes from that date onwards)

She provided me with the enclosed spreadsheet in response and the following explanation regarding her search criteria:

CMS(ii) Data –

I have provided a count of Sexual Offences recorded on the CMS(ii) Crime register between 01-Jan-2014 and 04-Dec-2017 where both the victim and the offender are under the age of 18 at the time of the offence, I have also included a breakdown by offence outcome.

In addition, I have provided a breakdown of the Offender's Age at the time of offence by the suggested age group. We do not expect a count of offenders to reflect a count of offences as some offences will be recorded with more than one offender or currently without an offender.

Of the offence count, I have included a count of offences where premises type is either SCHOOL/COLLEGE OR NURSERY SCHOOL / PRE-SCHOOL.

CONNECT Data –

I have provided a count of Sexual Offences recorded for CONNECT Crime 05-Dec-2017 and 31-Oct-2019 where the victim is under the age of 18 at the time of the offence, I have also included a breakdown by offence outcome

Of the offence count, I have included a count of offences where the premises type School or Children's Nursery or the MO Desc 1 is Location and MO Desc 3 is School or Nursery.

*For CONNECT, I cannot provide a count of offences where both the victim and offenders are under the age of 18 due to ongoing issues around data quality and accuracy regarding suspects i.e. outcomes, ages, gender etc. Therefore the **data is based only on the victim's age** and not the offender's age and cannot be used as a direct comparison to CMS(ii) data.*

Please note the following –

The outcomes CHARGED, SUMMONS and CAUTIONS changed in 2017 and we now record for what offence, the offender was charged i.e. CHARGED is now recorded as either CHARGED WITH OFFENCE RECORDED Or CHARGED WITH AN ALTERNATIVE OFFENCE, therefore the outcomes are applicable depending on the year recorded.