



Response Date: 25/11/2024

2024/1031 - Offences committed by children aged under 10

Although excess cost removed the forces obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

Please can you provide me the following information broken down by the following calendar years: 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 up until 30 September.

1) How many offences have been recorded by your force which have been committed by children aged under 10 (below the age of criminal responsibility)

2) A breakdown of the offences suspected to have been committed by children under the age of 10

3) A breakdown of the ages of suspects aged under 10 suspected of committing an offence. To give an example, should the data show that in 2016 there were 500 crimes recorded as being committed by children under 10 I would like a breakdown as to how many of those were committed by those aged 9, how many aged 8, how many aged 7 etc. And similarly for all the calendar years requested.

Our information is set up and searchable for our policing purposes. To obtain the information in the format you have requested regarding a breakdown by age would involve manually reviewing each record on our force system. This is because we do not record the child as suspect in all occurrences as they may be linked as "child/young person" only. Also, there may be other children linked to the occurrences who have not committed the offence with the same person classification. The cost of providing you with the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (FOI) Fees and Appropriate Limit regulations 2004.

Therefore, in accordance with the FOI Act 2000 the information you have requested is exempt under Section 12 (1), and this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 (5) of the legislation.

Please find below occurrences recorded with an outcome type (outcome 11) of below age of criminal responsibility) and a split of the crime types.

Offence Description	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Arson Endangering Life	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Arson Not Endangering Life	0	1	2	3	1	6	2	1	1	1	0	1
Assault with injury	0	20	32	38	42	37	41	25	24	27	36	24
Assault with Injury on a Constable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Assault with intent to cause serious harm	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0
Assault Without Injury	0	21	23	47	83	108	109	86	104	85	103	38
Assault Without Injury on a Constable	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	1	1	3	2	0
Blackmail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Burglary – Business and community	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary- Residential	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	2	0	0
Controlling and Coercive Behaviour	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Criminal Damage To A Building Other Than A Dwelling	0	1	3	2	7	3	4	2	1	1	2	0
Criminal Damage To A Dwelling	0	4	10	6	7	12	5	4	3	11	7	1
Criminal Damage To A Vehicle	0	8	18	9	12	13	12	5	10	10	6	0
Endangering Life	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Exposure and Voyeurism	0	1	0	1	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Harassment	0	0	0	0	0	9	12	7	14	15	29	13
Incest or Familial Sexual Offences	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Malicious communications	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	1	2	0

Obscene Publications, Etc. And Protected Sexual Material	0	0	0	0	3	3	2	2	12	6	16	11
Other Criminal Damage	0	7	8	10	12	23	13	7	11	24	7	6
Other Offences (Against The State And Public Order)	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0
Other Theft	0	0	4	5	2	3	2	1	3	2	1	1
Possession of Article with Blade or Point	0	1	1	2	1	3	0	3	0	8	4	0
Possession Of Controlled Drugs (Cannabis)	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0
Possession of Other Weapons	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	2	1
Public Fear, Alarm or Distress	0	2	0	1	5	9	16	16	11	13	19	4
Racially or religiously aggravated assault with injury	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	2
Racially or Religiously Aggravated Assault Without Injury	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Racially or Religiously Aggravated Harassment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3
Racially or Religiously Aggravated Public Fear, Alarm or Distress	0	0	0	1	3	1	3	0	0	6	4	3
Rape Of A Female Aged 16 And Over	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape Of A Female Child Under 13	0	0	1	2	3	1	0	1	4	2	0	0
Rape Of A Female Child Under 16	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Rape Of A Male Child Under 13	0	0	4	6	4	2	0	2	0	2	3	1
Rape Of A Male Child Under 16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Robbery Of Personal Property	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual Activity Involving A Child Under 13	0	5	0	27	40	25	28	7	11	22	12	4
Sexual Activity Involving A Child Under 16	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Sexual Assault On A Female Aged 13 And Over	0	4	1	3	0	2	3	4	0	1	1	1

Sexual Assault On A Female Child Under 13	0	0	3	9	3	1	3	6	7	7	10	6
Sexual Assault On A Male Aged 13 And Over	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assault On A Male Child Under 13	0	0	2	3	1	2	1	5	4	1	3	2
Sexual Grooming	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Shoplifting	0	4	4	3	9	10	27	5	4	7	0	4
Theft From A Vehicle	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Theft From The Person	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Theft In A Dwelling Other Than From An Automatic Machine Or Meter	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	2
Theft Or Unauthorised Taking Of A Pedal Cycle	0	2	1	0	2	1	3	1	0	0	0	1
Threat Or Possession With Intent To Commit Criminal Damage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Threats to Kill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sum:	0	83	121	185	254	286	297	205	230	269	280	131

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 20/11/2024