



Response Date: 17/12/2024

2024/1135 - Child sexual abuse

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

Between the time period January 2023 and August 2024, data on how many days it takes from the initial reporting of child sexual abuse (including viewing of online CSA and CSE images) to case closure (court outcome or no further action) i.e how long does it take from report to court

We would like to know how long these people are out on the streets before any conviction (custodial, suspended sentence or release without charge)

Ideally broken down for each case but the data as an average for the police force area would be good too

Would also be helpful to know if you have any timescales are set by your force that these cases are supposed to be dealt within

North Wales Police do not hold the court outcome data, and we would only have the report date to outcome applied date for occurrences.

However, as our information is set up and searchable for our policing purposes it is not as simple as adding up the numbers recorded and dividing it by the number of jobs. To go through and get the exact information would then take a review of each case individually. This is because it would not account for why cases may take the time they take and the closure point on the system may not be the actual closure time (there could be a delay). It would also not account for the safeguarding decisions that are made in light of the offence being investigated. Furthermore, "how long are they on the streets" does not account for bail conditions, other orders to safeguard, and when an offender goes through the court process they can still be "on the streets".

To obtain the information in the format you have requested would involve manually reviewing each record on our force system. 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.

We would also technically be creating a figure that was not held at the time the request was received. And there is no requirement to respond if it would mean creating new information or giving an opinion or judgment that is not already recorded, and it is therefore not valid under Section 8 of the Freedom of Information Act.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 16/12/2024