



Response Date: 18/10/2024

2024/928 - Child criminal exploitation

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

The number of offences involving child criminal exploitation.

For the purpose of this request, "children" refers to individuals under the age of 18. For clarity, the UK Government defines child criminal exploitation as: "where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate, or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18."

Please provide the requested data for the last four calendar years (2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 to date) in response to the following questions:

The number of instances of child criminal exploitation detected.

The number of charges brought as a result of instances involving child criminal exploitation.

The number of times instances relating to child criminal exploitation have involved the term 'county lines' or similar terms.

Our information is set up and searchable for our policing purposes.

The number of instances of child criminal exploitation detected. – This is not a crime type for a search of our system and is not consistently flagged. Moreover, some CCE is documented as a non-crime occurrence for safeguarding which further complicated the search.

The number of charges brought as a result of instances involving child criminal exploitation – CCE is not in itself an offence for which charges are brought. Charges may be brought for trafficking / slavery offences, drugs offences etc but would not be recorded as a CCE charge and as such, the same problems arise with compiling this data as with the first part of this request.

The number of times instances relating to child criminal exploitation have involved the term 'county lines' or similar terms. – This would involve a manual review of several hundred crime recording records

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.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 14/10/2024