



Response Date:28/10/2024

2024/979 - Online abuse

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

I would like to know how many individuals were reported for a case of online abuse in the years 2022,2023 and 2024 individually where the offence was committed by an individual under the age of 18 and those 18 and over. I would like this age breakdown provided separately.

I would also like to know the outcomes of the report - how many were charged - for both those offenders under the age of 18 and those 18 and over

Please consider the definition of online abuse as the below:

Online abuse defined as: death threats, cyber bullying, threats, sexual harassment, cyberstalking, emotional abuse, unsolicited sexual imagery and enticing violence or harm through online speech and comments.

The data relates to suspects of relevant offence types which have the local qualifier "cyber-dependent" or "cyber-enabled" for these years.

Unique Suspect Count per Calendar Year	01. Under 18	01. Under 18	01. Under 18	02. 18 and Over	02. 18 and Over	02. 18 and Over
Offence Category Description	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
Abuse of Children through Sexual Exploitation	0	1	0	2	3	0
Blackmail	1	5	2	11	21	18
Causing Sexual Activity Without Consent	0	0	0	0	1	1
Controlling and Coercive Behaviour	0	2	5	23	48	71

Harassment	88	120	127	351	402	511
Malicious communications	185	141	94	750	475	294
Obscene Publications, Etc. And Protected Sexual Material	121	190	148	93	92	63
Public Fear, Alarm or Distress	1	3	10	22	18	35
Racially or Religiously Aggravated Harassment	1	12	8	10	9	4
Racially or Religiously Aggravated Public Fear, Alarm or Distress	2	2	1	6	7	7
Sexual Grooming	2	1	1	25	29	27
Stalking	9	14	26	349	456	535
Threats to Kill	1	5	3	7	16	6
Total	411	496	425	1649	1577	1572

Unique Charged Suspect Count per Calendar Year	01. Under 18	01. Under 18	01. Under 18	02. 18 and Over	02. 18 and Over	02. 18 and Over
Offence Category Description	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
Abuse of Children through Sexual Exploitation	0	0	0	1	1	0
Controlling and Coercive Behaviour	0	0	0	1	1	7
Harassment	1	2	1	19	20	15
Malicious communications	2	1	0	49	26	11
Obscene Publications, Etc. And Protected Sexual Material	2	2	0	29	26	4
Public Fear, Alarm or Distress	0	0	0	1	1	0
Racially or Religiously Aggravated Harassment	0	0	0	1	1	1
Racially or Religiously Aggravated Public Fear, Alarm or Distress	0	0	0	0	1	0
Sexual Grooming	0	0	0	8	11	2
Stalking	0	0	0	39	41	32
Threats to Kill	0	0	1	3	6	0
Total	5	5	2	151	135	72

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 23/10/2024