



Response Date:03/09/2025

2025/862 - Paedophile-hunter groups

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 provide the information and data described below for the period 10 August 2020 to 10 August 2025 (inclusive).

Definitions for the purposes of this request:

- "Paedophile-hunter(s)" or "paedophile hunting groups" means non-police civilian organisations, groups or individuals who pose online or in person to identify, investigate, or arrange the meeting of persons suspected of intending to commit sexual offences against children and who then report those persons to the police (sometimes publicised on social media). If your records use a different term (for example "online vigilante", "citizen sting", "community watch"), please include those in the search and state which search terms you used.
- "NFA" means "no further action".
- "Release pending investigation" means a reported suspect was released pending further enquiries.
- "Outcome" refers to the police/CPS/charging/final court outcome associated with the police investigation prompted by the report.

Please provide:

- 1. Annual counts (broken down by calendar year) of reports to your force by paedophile-hunter groups (or equivalent civilians) where the report alleged a sexual-related offence. For each year, include the total number of reported incidents.**
- 2. For those reported incidents, provide the following aggregate breakdowns (tables) by year and ethnicity (as recorded in your records) of the alleged suspect(s):**

Number of reports per ethnicity per year.

For each ethnicity x year cell, provide counts of outcome categories: NFA, released pending investigation, charged (CPS charged), convicted, acquitted / found not

Pencadlys yr Heddlu,
Glan-y-Don, Bae Colwyn LL29 8AW
www.heddlugogleddcymru.police.uk

Police Headquarters,
Glan-y-Don, Colwyn Bay LL29 8AW
www.northwales.police.uk

guilty, and other final outcomes. If multiple outcomes occurred (e.g. initially NFA then reopened), list the most recent final outcome and also provide a count of changes of outcome.

3. For each conviction counted in (2), please also provide the average custodial sentence length in months (mean and median), broken down by year and ethnicity. Where available, provide the individual sentence lengths (anonymised) so that averages can be independently calculated.

4. For the same set of reported incidents, provide counts by year for whether the initial contact involved a real child at the point of contact (Yes / No / Unknown). For those where "Yes", provide the outcome categories as in (2) and sentencing length data as in (3) for convictions.

5. Provide counts by year of incidents where it was later found (after police investigation) that a real child was involved (i.e., child victim confirmed after investigation), and the outcomes (NFA, charged, convicted, acquitted, other). Provide sentencing length data as in (3) for convictions.

6. Provide counts and details of occasions where the paedophile-hunting team or individual who made the report was the subject of a police investigation as a result of their conduct (e.g., allegations of criminality, harassment, entrapment, misconduct). For these investigator-on-hunter cases, for each year provide:

Number of investigations opened into hunting teams/individuals.

Outcome of those investigations: NFA, charged, convicted, acquitted / found not guilty, internal discipline, or other. If prosecutions occurred, please provide offence codes, final court outcome, and sentencing length data as in (3) for convictions.

7. For all of the above items, where possible, provide the data as anonymised, machine-readable records (CSV or Excel) where each row corresponds to a single reported incident and contains the following columns (leave personal identifiers blank/redacted but keep categorical data):

Year (YYYY)

Reporting source type (e.g., named paedophile-hunter group; "unknown civilian group"; "member of public via social media")

Suspect age group (e.g., <18, 18–24, 25–34, 35–44, 45+) as recorded

Suspect ethnicity (as recorded)

Whether initial contact involved an actual child at point of contact (Yes/No/Unknown)

Whether, after investigation, a child victim was confirmed (Yes/No/Unknown)

Initial police outcome (NFA / released pending investigation / charged / other)

Final outcome (NFA / charged / convicted / acquitted / other)

CPS decision (if applicable)

Whether the reporting hunting team/individual was investigated by police (Yes/No)

Outcome of any investigation into the hunting team/individual (NFA / charged /

convicted / acquitted / disciplinary / other)

Offence codes and short description (as recorded)

Custodial sentence length in months (if convicted)

Any public-interest redactions applied (and the legal basis for withholding, if data is withheld)

8. If any part of this request is refused or withheld under an exemption, please:

identify the specific exemption(s) you are relying on,

state why the exemption applies in this case, and

provide the public interest test balancing that led to the decision.

9. If you consider any part of this request ambiguous, please provide the records you do hold that are closest to the request and explain briefly how you interpreted the ambiguous terms. If searching for "paedophile hunters" requires particular search terms or manual review, please supply the search terms used and an estimate of records that might require manual handling (and confirm if you will charge fees for that part).

10. Please supply the summary tables requested in (1)–(6) as CSV or Excel and the anonymised incident rows as a separate CSV/Excel attachment.

Our information is set up and searchable for our policing purposes. There is no formal way of recording paedophile hunter as the reporting source, they are essentially a member of the public reporting. We have extracted Sexual Offences 10/08/20 to 10/08/25 with keyword search for "paedophile hunter" in either occurrence summary or occurrence enquiry log. These have been manual checked to ensure relevance to your request.

Please find the data retrieved on the attached.

Please note, we do not hold conviction data. this would have to be sourced from the Crown Prosecution Service.

To obtain any additional information to that in the attached 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 21/08/2025

Calendar Year	HO Code	HO Description	Arrest Y/N	Suspect Ethnicity	Suspect Age	Arrested Ethnicity	Arrested Age	Offender Ethnicity	Offender Age	Outcome	Victim Type	Child Victim (on reported date)	Victim Age
2020	022/02	Causing a female person to engage in sexual activity without consent	Y	White - North European	28	White - North European	28	White - North European	28	01. Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	
2020	071/17	Engage in sexual communication with a child	Y	White - North European	63	White - North European	63	White - North European	63	01. Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	
2020	071/17	Engage in sexual communication with a child	Y			White - North European	48			15. CPS Named Suspect, Victim Supports but Evidential Difficulties	Bus/Org	N	
2020	071/17	Engage in sexual communication with a child	Y			White - North European	67			15. CPS Named Suspect, Victim Supports but Evidential Difficulties	Bus/Org	N	

2020	022/20	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, no penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y			White - North European	49			15. Police Named Suspect, Victim Supports but Evidential Difficulties	Bus/Org	N	
2021	071/17	Engage in sexual communication with a child	Y			White - North European	51			15. Police Named Suspect, Victim Supports but Evidential Difficulties	Bus/Org	N	
2021	022/20	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, no penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y	Unknown	36	Unknown	36	Unknown	36	01. Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	
2021	019/17A	Single Offender: Rape of a male child under 13 by a male	N	White - North European	50					Outcome Not Yet Assigned	Person	N	42
2021	022/20	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, no penetration, offender aged 18 or over	N	White - North European	37					16. Victim Declines / Withdraws Support - Named Suspect Identified	Person	N	35

2021	022/08	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y	White - North European	45	White - North European	45	White - North European	45	01A. Alternate Offence Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	
2021	022/08	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y			White - North European	34	White - North European	34	01A. Alternate Offence Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	
2021	021/03	Causing or inciting a female child under 13 to engage in sexual activity - no penetration	Y	Arabic or North African	35	Arabic or North African	35	Arabic or North African	35	01A. Alternate Offence Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	
2021	022/20	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, no penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y	White - North European	40	White - North European	40	White - North European	40	01. Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	

2021	022/20	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, no penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y			White - North European	24			15. CPS Named Suspect, Victim Supports but Evidential Difficulties	Bus/Org	N	
2021	021/02	Causing or inciting a female child under 13 to engage in sexual activity - penetration	Y	White - North European	33	White - North European	33	White - North European	33	01A. Alternate Offence Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	
2021	071/17	Engage in sexual communication with a child	N	White - North European	61					09. CPS Prosecution Not In Public Interest	Bus/Org	N	
2022	022/08	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y	White - North European	50	White - North European	50	White - North European	50	01. Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	
2022	022/20	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, no penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y	White - North European	55	White - North European	55	White - North European	55	01A. Alternate Offence Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	

2022	022/20	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, no penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y	White - North European	55	White - North European	55	White - North European	55	01A. Alternate Offence Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	
2022	021/03	Causing or inciting a female child under 13 to engage in sexual activity - no penetration	Y	White - North European	55	White - North European	55	White - North European	55	01A. Alternate Offence Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	
2022	022/08	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y	White - North European	55	White - North European	55	White - North European	55	01A. Alternate Offence Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	
2022	021/02	Causing or inciting a female child under 13 to engage in sexual activity - penetration	Y	White - North European	26	White - North European	26	White - North European	26	01. Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	
2022	071/17	Engage in sexual communication with a child	Y	White - North European	57	White - North European	57	White - North European	57	01. Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Person	N	37

2022	022/20	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, no penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y	White - North European	57	White - North European	57	White - North European	57	01A. Alternate Offence Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	
2022	022/20	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, no penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y	White - North European	39	White - North European	39	White - North European	39	01. Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	
2022	071/17	Engage in sexual communication with a child	N	White - North European	37			White - North European	37	01. Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	
2022	022/20	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, no penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y			White - North European	42	White - North European	42	01. Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	

2022	022/08	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y	White - North European	57	White - North European	57	White - North European	57	01. Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	
2022	022/20	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, no penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y	White - North European	39	White - North European	39	White - North European	39	01A. Alternate Offence Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	
2022	022/20	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, no penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y			White - North European	41	White - North European	41	01A. Alternate Offence Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	
2022	071/17	Engage in sexual communication with a child	Y	White - North European	25	White - North European	25	White - North European	25	01. Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	
2022	071/17	Engage in sexual communication with a child	Y			White - North European	28	White - North European	28	01. Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	

2022	022/20	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, no penetration, offender aged 18 or over	N	White - North European	36					21. Police Named Suspect, Investigation Not in the Public Interest	Bus/Org	N	
2023	022/20	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, no penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y	White - North European	59	White - North European	59	White - North European	59	01A. Alternate Offence Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	
2023	021/03	Causing or inciting a female child under 13 to engage in sexual activity - no penetration	Y	White - North European	45	White - North European	45	White - North European	45	01A. Alternate Offence Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	
2023	022/08	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y	White - North European	53	White - North European	53	White - North European	53	01. Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	

2023	022/20	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, no penetration, offender aged 18 or over	N							18. Investigation Complete No Suspect Identified	Bus/Org	N	
2023	022/21	Causing or inciting a male child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, no penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y	White - North European	54	White - North European	54			03. Adult Caution / Conditional Caution	Bus/Org	N	
2023	022/08	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y	Unknown	70	Unknown	70	Unknown	70	01. Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	
2023	022/20	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, no penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y	White - North European	61	White - North European	61	White - North European	61	01A. Alternate Offence Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	

2023	022/20	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, no penetration, offender aged 18 or over	N	White - North European	66			White - North European	66	01. Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	
2023	022/20	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, no penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y	White - North European	56	White - North European	56			Outcome Not Yet Assigned	Bus/Org	N	
2023	022/20	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, no penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y	White - North European	39	White - North European	39	White - North European	39	01A. Alternate Offence Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	
2023	088/01	Meeting a female child following sexual grooming etc (Offender is aged 18 or over and victim is under 16)	Y			White - North European	69			15. Police Named Suspect, Victim Supports but Evidential Difficulties	Bus/Org	N	

2023	071/17	Engage in sexual communication with a child	Y	White - North European	69	White - North European	69			15. Police Named Suspect, Victim Supports but Evidential Difficulties	Bus/Org	N	
2023	071/17	Engage in sexual communication with a child	Y	White - North European	69	White - North European	69			15. CPS Named Suspect, Victim Supports but Evidential Difficulties	Bus/Org	N	
2023	071/17	Engage in sexual communication with a child	Y	White - North European	69	White - North European	69			15. Police Named Suspect, Victim Supports but Evidential Difficulties	Bus/Org	N	
2023	022/20	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, no penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y	White - North European	33	White - North European	33	White - North European	33	01. Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	
2023	071/17	Engage in sexual communication with a child	Y	White - North European	52	White - North European	52			Outcome Not Yet Assigned	Bus/Org	N	

2023	022/08	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y	White - North European	26	White - North European	26	White - North European	26	01A. Alternate Offence Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	No Linked Aggrievd	N	
2023	022/20	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, no penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y	White - North European	29	White - North European	29			Outcome Not Yet Assigned	No Linked Aggrievd	N	
2023	019/07A	Single Offender: Rape of a female aged under 16	Y	White - North European	29	White - North European	29			16. Victim Declines / Withdraws Support - Named Suspect Identified	Person	N	30
2024	071/17	Engage in sexual communication with a child	Y	Unknown	74	Unknown	74	Unknown	74	Outcome Not Yet Assigned	Bus/Org	N	
2024	021/03	Causing or inciting a female child under 13 to engage in sexual activity - no penetration	Y			White - North European	74	White - North European	74	Outcome Not Yet Assigned	Bus/Org	N	

2024	071/17	Engage in sexual communication with a child	N							14. Victim Declines / Unable to Support Action to Identify Offender	Bus/Org	N	
2024	071/17	Engage in sexual communication with a child	Y	White - North European	40	White - North European	40	White - North European	40	01. Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	
2024	022/20	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, no penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y	White - North European	30	White - North European	30	White - North European	30	01A. Alternate Offence Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	
2024	022/04	Causing a female person to engage in sexual activity without consent, no penetration	Y	White - North European	42	White - North European	42			Outcome Not Yet Assigned	Bus/Org	N	
2024	022/20	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, no penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y	White - North European	42	White - North European	42			Outcome Not Yet Assigned	Bus/Org	N	

2024	022/20	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, no penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y	White - North European	42	White - North European	42			Outcome Not Yet Assigned	Bus/Org	N	
2024	022/20	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, no penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y	White - North European	42	White - North European	42			Outcome Not Yet Assigned	Bus/Org	N	
2024	022/20	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, no penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y	White - North European	34	White - North European	34			Outcome Not Yet Assigned	Bus/Org	N	
2024	022/20	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, no penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y			White - North European	44	White - North European	44	01A. Alternate Offence Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	

2024	071/17	Engage in sexual communication with a child	N	White - North European	44			White - North European	44	01A. Alternate Offence Charged / Summoned / Postal Requisition	Bus/Org	N	
2024	071/17	Engage in sexual communication with a child	Y	White - North European	44	White - North European	44	White - North European	44	Outcome Not Yet Assigned	Bus/Org	N	
2024	021/03	Causing or inciting a female child under 13 to engage in sexual activity - no penetration	N							18. Investigation Complete No Suspect Identified	Bus/Org	N	
2024	022/20	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, no penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y	White - North European	34	White - North European	34			Outcome Not Yet Assigned	Bus/Org	N	
2024	022/20	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, no penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y	White - North European	19	White - North European	19			Outcome Not Yet Assigned	No Linked Aggrievd	N	

2025	071/17	Engage in sexual communication with a child	N							18. Investigatio n Complete No Suspect Identified	Person	Y	11
2025	022/20	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, no penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y	White - North European	26	White - North European	26			Outcome Not Yet Assigned	Bus/Org	N	
2025	022/08	Causing or inciting a female child under 16 to engage in sexual activity, penetration, offender aged 18 or over	Y	White - North European	51	White - North European	51			Outcome Not Yet Assigned	Bus/Org	N	
2025	071/17	Engage in sexual communication with a child	N	White - North European	27					Outcome Not Yet Assigned	Bus/Org	N	
2025	071/17	Engage in sexual communication with a child	Y	White - North European	59	White - North European	59			Outcome Not Yet Assigned	Bus/Org	N	
2025	071/17	Engage in sexual communication with a child	Y	White - North European	59	White - North European	59			Outcome Not Yet Assigned	Bus/Org	N	

2025	071/17	Engage in sexual communication with a child	Y	White - North European	27	White - North European	27			Outcome Not Yet Assigned	Bus/Org	N	
------	--------	---	---	------------------------	----	------------------------	----	--	--	--------------------------	---------	---	--