

OFFICIAL



Heddlu Police

DYFED-POWYS

FOI Reference: 487/2020

Request:

- 1) For each of the calendar years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 I would like data on the number of child sex offence crimes your force has recorded in which the alleged perpetrator is female.
- 2) Each data return should include the calendar year the offence took place, the gender of the victim, the age of the victim, the offence classification and indicate if the suspect was charged.

For guidance I would only like data on crimes which were not subsequently cancelled.

In terms of the offence classification which should be included I would like all child sex offences covered by the CPS's 'most commonly charged offences' guide <https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/rape-and-sexual-offences-chapter-2-sexual-offences-act-2003-principal-offences-and>

Including:

- *Rape of a child
- *Sexual assault of a child
- *Causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity
- *Sexual activity with a child
- *Incest or familial sexual offences
- *Causing a child to watch a sexual act
- *Engaging in sexual activity in the presence of a child
- *Meeting a child following sexual grooming
- *Arranging and facilitating a child sex offence
- *Possession of indecent images of children
- *Abuse of a position of trust (including victims aged 16 and 17)
- *Abuse of children through prostitution or pornography
- *Child sex offence committed by children or young persons

Response 1:

I can confirm that Dyfed-Powys Police does hold the information requested, the details of which are as follows:

Year	Total no. of child sex offences where the alleged perpetrator is female
2015	46
2016	46
2017	51

2018	54
2019	58
Grand Total	255

Response 2:

I can confirm that Dyfed-Powys Police does hold the information requested, however some of the information has been exempted by virtue of Section 30(1)(a) – Investigations and proceedings conducted by public authorities (please see the end of the document for an explanation of the applied exemption).

Gender:

Gender of victim				
Year	Not stated	Female	Male	Grand Total
2015	4	21	21	46
2016	6	16	24	46
2017	13	22	16	51
2018	8	27	19	54
2019	3	27	24	54
Section 30(1) applies				4
Grand Total	34	113	104	255

Age:

Please note: The information provided in the below table has been provided as an age range in order to avoid the possible use of any exemptions.

*Please also note: The data in the 0 – 5 yrs category may not be wholly accurate as there have been a number of crimes in which the age was listed/recorded as zero (0). This may not reflect the actual age of the victim involved and each crime record would then need to be interrogated further to ascertain if an actual age has been recorded.

Age of victim				
Year	0-5 yrs	6-10 yrs	11-16yrs	Grand Total
2015	21*	11	14	46
2016	15*	5	26	46
2017	23*	8	20	51
2018	21*	8	25	54
2019	20*	7	27	54
Section 30(1) applies				4
Grand Total	102*	40	113	255

Offence Code:

Please note: The information provided in the below table has been provided as a total figure as to break this figure down further may possibly result in use of exemptions.

Offence code	Grand Total (2015 – 2019)
CHILDSTEAL	17
INCEST	4
RAPEFU13	2
RAPEFU16	1
RAPEMU13	2
SEXACTU13	26
SEXACTU16	109
SEXFO13	20
SEXFU13	37
SEXGROOM	4
SEXMENTAL	1
SEXMO13	6
SEXMU13	13
SEXWCON	2
USI13	7
Section 30(1) applies	4
Grand Total	255

Charges/summons:

Year	Summons	Charged	Grand Total
2015	1	0	1
2016	0	0	0
2017	0	0	0
2018	1	0	1
2019	1	0	1
Grand Total	3	0	3

Explanation of the applied exemption:

Section 30(1)(a) Investigations and Proceedings conducted by Public Authorities:

(1) Information held by a public authority is exempt information if it has at any time been held by the authority for the purposes of -

(a) Any investigation which the public authority has a duty to conduct with a view to it being ascertained (i) whether a person should be charged with an offence, or (ii) whether a person charged with an offence is guilty of it.

Section 30 is a class-based qualified exemption. This means that the legislators when writing the legislation considered that the release of such information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 would cause harm to the public authority or individual concerned. There is therefore no requirement to carry out a HARM Test in respect of such information. However, there is a requirement to carry out a Public Interest Test in order to establish whether the

public interest in maintaining the exemption may be outweighed by a wider public benefit in disclosure.

Public Interest Test

Considerations favouring disclosure:

Disclosure of the information would improve the public's knowledge and awareness regarding the frequency of such crimes.

Considerations favouring non-disclosure:

This exemption covers information held at any time for the purpose of an investigation, whether the case is ongoing, closed or abandoned. To release details of ongoing investigations, as in this case, could undermine and prejudice those investigations. This would impact on the forces' future law enforcement capabilities by hindering the prevention or detection of crime.

Balancing Test

After considering the advantages and disadvantages in disclosure, it falls upon Dyfed-Powys Police to conduct a balance test on the issues. The strongest argument for disclosure, which is public awareness, needs to be weighed against the strongest arguments for non-disclosure, which in this case is that the release would undermine and prejudice an ongoing investigation, which would impact on the forces' future law enforcement capabilities by hindering the prevention or detection of crime.

Therefore, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

It should be noted that owing to the systems adopted by Dyfed-Powys Police in relation to the recording of such matters the information provided may or may not be accurate.

Police Forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide crime statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. It should be noted that for these reasons this Force's response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you may receive.

(This is a response under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and disclosed on 22/09/20)